

# BAMA

INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

DECEMBER, 1992

VOLUME 14, NUMBER 10

**Inside**

• **Eric Curry**

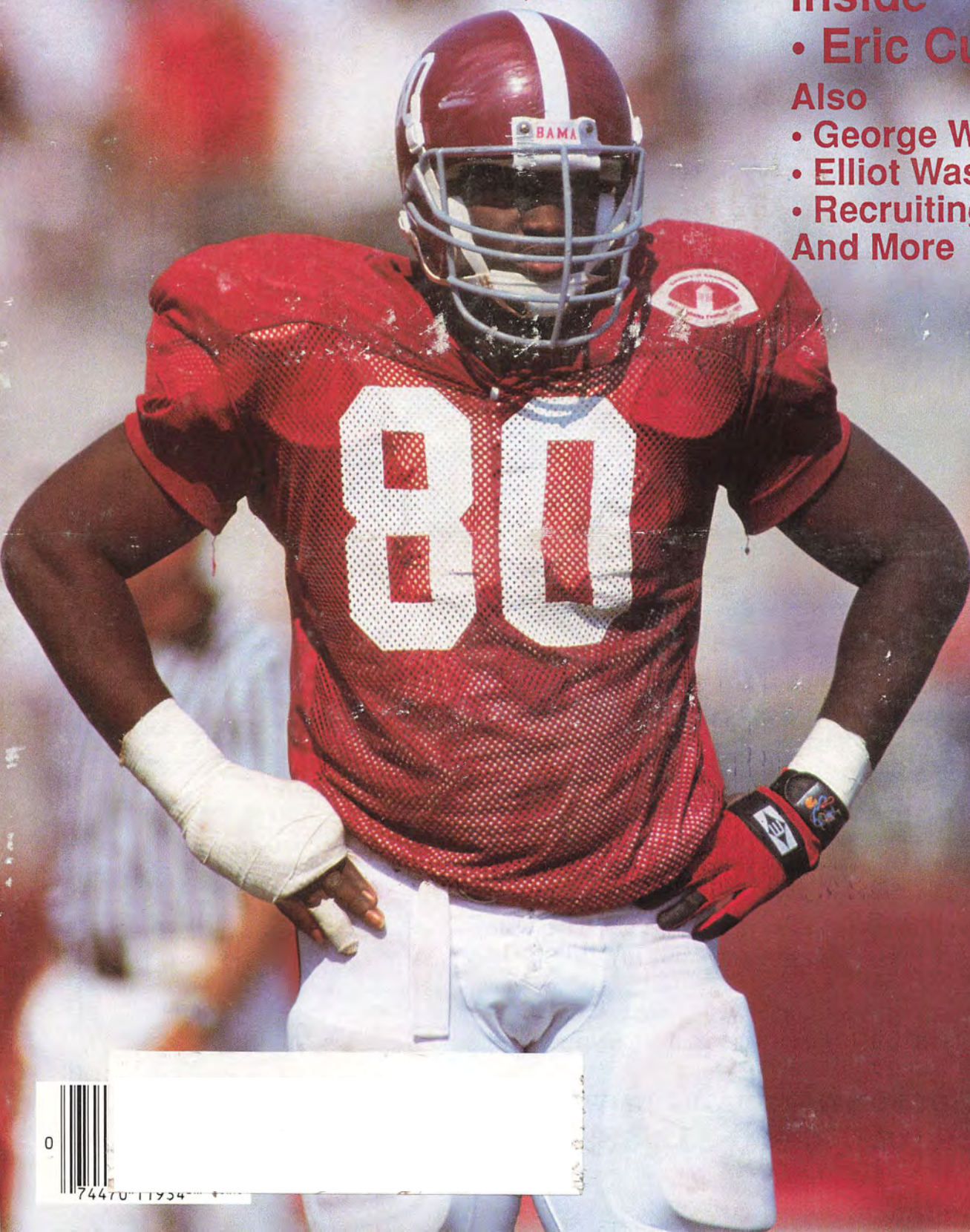
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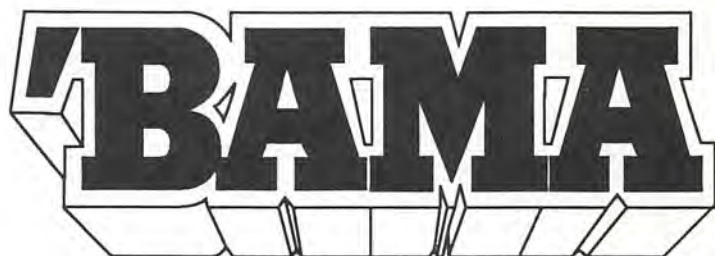
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## Editorial & Staff Directory

Publisher: Lynne McNair  
Editor: Kirk McNair  
Photo Editor: Barry Fikes  
Artist: Dan Proctor  
Circulation Director: Mary Ellen Palardy  
Publisher's Assistant: Vera Dowdle  
Promotions Director: Mort Jordan

Contributing Writers: John Barnes,  
Barbara Butler, Jimmie Cummings,  
Tommy Deas, Brad Edwards,  
Rush Garner, Becky Hopf, Julia McNair,  
Steve Sikes, Donald F. Staffo,  
Rob Woodruff

Contributing Photographers: Wade  
Collins, Kent Gidley, Paul Hultberg,  
Spectrum-Southeast, University of  
Alabama  
Computer Consultant: Stephen Bushery,  
ComSouth

## Publishing Information

'BAMA, INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE  
(USPS 489-470; ISSN 0195-0975) is  
published monthly for ten months from  
August to May by College Sports  
Publications, Inc., 2116 8th Street,  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401. Editorial of-  
fice is located at 2116 8th Street,  
Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401.

POSTMASTER: Send change of ad-  
dress to 'BAMA, INSIDE THE CRIM-  
SON TIDE, P.O. Box 6104,  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35486-6104.

Second class postage paid at Tuscaloosa,  
Alabama, and at additional mailing office.  
Subscription rate is \$35.00 per year.  
Foreign subscriptions \$10.00 per addition-  
al. Change of address: Six weeks advance  
notice, and old address as well as new re-  
quired. Address all correspondence to:  
Post Office Box 6104, Tuscaloosa,  
Alabama 35486-6104. Not responsible  
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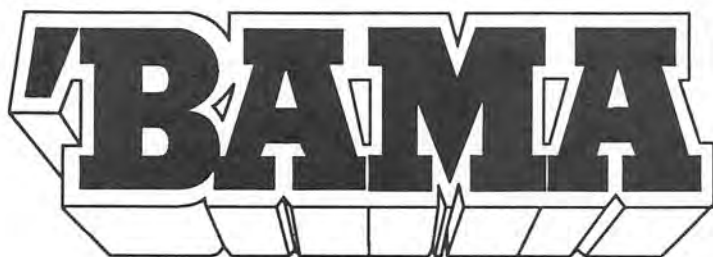
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## NATIONAL SCORES AND UPDATES

(Selection 6)

A service of 'BAMA Magazine, Tuscaloosa, Alabama





INSIDE THE CRIMSON TIDE

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The early signing period for athletes in winter and spring sports means that Bama has already taken care of some of its recruiting needs. Although men's basketball had only one signee, there were signees in other sports. **by Kirk McNair**

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# BAMA SCORECARD

## Isn't Corky Frost From Gadsden?

A good case can be made that the less said and written (including here) about the Gene Jelks allegations the better. And that's about the best case coming out of these recent events. But, as Alabama Head Football Coach Gene Stallings said, "We couldn't act like it (the allegations) didn't happen."

Here is a synopsis of what has happened thus far:

Gene Jelks, who played football at Alabama from 1985 through 1989 (out one year with a knee injury), has alleged he was paid money by Tide boosters and coaches both to attend Alabama and to play for Alabama.

The vehicle for his story was the *Atlanta Constitution*, which is the same thing as the long-time Bama-bashing *Atlanta Journal* insofar as sportswriting staff is concerned. No fewer than five reporters worked on the story, which was covered on page 1 of the newspaper and on several pages of the sports section. (In much more detail than the story earlier this year alleging Alabama had offered a Georgia player illegal inducements, a story that was proved false within 24 hours).

The attorney selected to handle the case in Atlanta was vague about how he was selected, but said it was because he had no ties to Auburn. More diligent reporters quickly determined the attorney is the partner of a major Auburn donor.

The primary "proof" of wrongdoing was copies of checks written to Jelks by a Gadsden-area businessman, who apparently has no ties to Alabama (not an alumnus, never a season ticket buyer, not a member of Tide Pride, etc.). There may have been some legal and/or ethics violations involved in copies of the checks being made public, but the NCAA has no interest in either Jelks' motivation or how evidence is obtained. The NCAA is concerned strictly with whether Alabama violated rules, and there is no protection for Alabama by any statute of limitations insofar as the Jelks' allegations are concerned or by the fact that the alleged wrongdoing was under the watch of previous athletics administrators and coaches.

(An irony in this is that if it is determined that an Auburn booster or boosters is behind a dirty trick, that might indicate to the NCAA that Auburn, even with a new president and athletics director, still doesn't have institutional control, and lack of institutional control is a major factor in NCAA penalties for cheating, which Auburn's football program is facing again.)

Jelks made at least one tape recording with a former Alabama assistant coach, Jerry Pullen, who was a graduate assistant when Jelks was recruited and who also was Jelks' junior high school coach in Gadsden. The recording was made without Pullen's knowledge in a telephone conversation a few weeks before the story in the

*Constitution*. Jelks also tried to make secret recordings with former Alabama assistant coach Rockey Felker, now at Tulsa, and with at least two current Alabama staff members. All of those dismissed Jelks' telephone call with denials and the results of those tapes were not used in the newspaper article.

Jelks' former Alabama teammates en masse, Jelks' family, the so-called boosters, and the former Alabama coaches accused by Jelks have all denied the allegations. Indeed, several months ago Jelks also denied the allegations, which were then rumor.

There seems to be a general feeling that Jelks is "a bad guy" for making these allegations, but when he was a student-athlete at Alabama he was a very good guy and a very bright person, well-liked by his fellow players, coaches, staff members, and the press.

Alabama Athletics Director Cecil Ingram instituted an investigation of the charges and said that he would follow procedure, making his report to the Southeastern Conference and the NCAA.

## Assistant Coaches

Over the years, Alabama has probably had more assistant football coaches go on to head coaching jobs than has any other school. Schools with problems look to men at successful colleges to take over head coaching vacancies.

There are several current Bama assistant football coaches who could logically be considered for head coaching positions. However, no Alabama assistant is likely to consider just any offer. Being at Alabama, in addition to an impressive line on the résumé, means that an assistant coach has a great opportunity to be successful in recruiting and on the field. It means having facilities second to none. And it means being well-paid and having good job security.

Nevertheless, as vacancies occur, the names of several Tide assistants will crop up in connection with those vacancies. Many believe Bill Oliver, the *de facto* defensive coordinator, is prime head coaching material. However, Oliver has several family considerations, including son Brad being a member of the Crimson Tide baseball team. And Oliver recently told a sportswriter that being at Alabama is "utopia."

Mike Dubose, the defensive line coach, is considered one of the bright young coaches in the nation, as is Larry Kirksey, who coaches Bama running backs. Ellis Johnson, who coaches outside linebackers, is considered a sure bet for a promotion somewhere one day. One also has to wonder if Danny Ford lands a head job if Tide assistants Woody McCorvey, who first came to coaching prominence under Ford at Clemson, and Danny Pearman, who played for Ford at Clemson, might join their old boss. (Oliver also coached under Ford.)

Assistant Head Coach Mal Moore, Jimmy Fuller (guards and centers) and Jeff

Rouzie (inside linebackers) are considered less likely to leave.

## Head Coach

One thing to consider if any Alabama assistant coaches leave the program after this season is that the man who put this staff together will pick their replacements.

Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings is probably not going to go anywhere, although he may have a banquet or two to make this winter. He is odds-on favorite to be selected Southeastern Conference Coach of the Year. And he is one of four finalists for the 1992 Paul "Bear" Bryant College Football Coach of the Year Award as selected by the Football Writers Association of America. The award is presented by the FWAA in conjunction with the Houston Division of the American Heart Association and the Touchdown Club of Houston.

When the announcement was made in Houston, much was made of Stallings' selection as a finalist since his ties with the man for whom the award is named go back nearly 40 years. Stallings played for Bryant at Texas A&M, was a graduate assistant coach for him at A&M for one year, then served on the Alabama staff under him for seven years.

The other finalists are Tom Coughlin of Boston College, Glen Mason of Kansas and Don James of Washington, who won the award last year.

The banquet honoring the winner will be December 10 at the Houston Club with ABC's Keith Jackson the speaker. A luncheon earlier that day will announce the Southwest Conference Coach of the Year and the speaker at that luncheon will be Steve Sloan, now athletics director at North Texas State and a former Crimson Tide quarterback and former Alabama athletics director.

Stallings is also one of 10 finalists for *Football News* coach of the year.

## Honors Begin

The honor teams are beginning to be announced and it is no surprise that defensive end Eric Curry is a leader. Curry, who is a finalist for the Lombardi Award, has been named national college defensive player of the year by Chevrolet, which sponsors the weekly player of the game awards on televised games.

Curry and his defensive line running mate, John Copeland, have both been named to the 24-man Kodak All-America Team, selected by the nation's college coaches. And Copeland was named first team All-America by *Football News*.

Curry and Copeland were both cited in a recent issue of *Sidelines*, the publication of the College Football Association, in an article, "Prop 48 Success Stories."

## Senior Bowl Takes Eight

Alabama will be well represented in the



1993 Senior Bowl in Mobile, in fact probably a record as eight Bama players have been selected. The first professional game for college football seniors, the Senior Bowl will be played at Ladd Memorial Stadium Saturday, January 16.

All five Alabama senior starters on defense and three from the offense were chosen for the game. The Tiders who have accepted the invitations to play in the Senior Bowl are defensive ends Eric Curry and John Copeland, outside linebacker Antonio London, inside linebacker Derrick Oden and defensive back George Teague. From the offense the Tide is sending wide receiver Prince Wimbley, fullback Martin Houston and tailback Derrick Lassie.

There are other college all-star games. The Japan Bowl is January 9 in Yokohama, Japan; the Hula Bowl January 16 in Honolulu; and the East-West Shrine Game January 24 at Palo Alto, California.

Teague and London have accepted invitations to the Japan Bowl. Some Bama players may accept other invitations.

### Basketball Ratings

As expected, Alabama's men's basketball team was not highly rated and the women were by the media members who met in Birmingham recently for the Southeastern Conference basketball preview meeting with coaches and players from each SEC school.

The Tide men, who are without Robert Horry and Latrell Sprewell from last year's team and who are under new Head Coach David Hobbs, were picked fourth in the West Division, although the Tide got four first place votes. Auburn was picked first, followed by Mississippi State, Arkansas, Alabama, LSU and Ole Miss. In the East, Kentucky was the runaway favorite. James Robinson was selected to the first team preseason All-SEC team.

The Tide women of Coach Rick Moody were picked to finish third in the SEC, behind powerful Tennessee and Vanderbilt (both of which have been picked to win the national championship in various polls). Bama sophomore Niesa Johnson, the national freshman of the year last season, was named to the preseason All-SEC Team.

*Basketball Times*, perhaps the best of the national basketball publications, picks the Bama men 17th and the Tide women 14th. Incidentally, that December 30 issue of *Basketball Times* has a long article on Hobbs. Almost all preseason national polls have Bama's women in the nation's top 20, but the men have made only a couple of appearances.

### Basketball Rules

One of the worst things about athletics is the tendency of players to taunt or ridicule opposing players. The NCAA is going to try to do something about that this basketball season. An NCAA rule says:

A player or coach may not use profanity, vulgarity, taunt, ridicule, obscene gestures, point a finger, or bait an opponent. Coaches and administrators have the responsibility to set the tone for responsible behavior on the part of their teams and followers.

While this is not a new rule, this year the

NCAA has made it "a point of emphasis," meaning officials have been instructed to enforce the rule. Another point of emphasis this year involves the nearly-impossible differentiation between charging and blocking. Because of the point of emphasis, there is a suspicion that the offensive players, who have gotten the benefit of the doubt on most such calls, will receive more charging calls or more no calls this season.

There are six rules changes in basketball this year. They are: 1. All unsporting and contact technical fouls count toward a player's five fouls and toward teams fouls; 2. When the ball is deflected out of bounds by a defensive player, the offensive team on throw-in shall have the unexpired time on the shot clock; 3. A maximum of one technical foul will be assessed for lineup and squad list changes after the game's start; 4. An airborne shooter fouled while in the air but after the ball is released is considered to be in the act of shooting until both of the shooter's feet return to the floor; 5. Only one timeout is charged to a team no matter how much time is used when an injured player is attended to and remains in the game; and 6. A throw-in that lodges on the rim is a violation.

### What A Shot

Jason Bohn, a sophomore at Alabama, walked on to the Tide golf team as a freshman, then was given scholarship aid this year. Although he has not yet made the Tide's top five (the players who ordinarily compete in a college golf tournament), he has had a most successful fall season. Bohn entered a charity event at The University's golf course, a hole-in-one contest. Twelve golfers made qualifying shots to have one swing at a hole-in-one. Bohn, the third player to try, knocked it in. The prize is \$1 million, to be paid in monthly installments of \$4,500 over 20 years. Bohn, a chemistry major from near State College, Pennsylvania, lost his amateur status and can no longer play for Bama, but somehow one expects he can live with that loss.

## "Thanks For The Memories" Coach Bryant's Football Family

The Alabama "A" Club Educational and Charitable Foundation, chartered on the suggestion of Coach Bryant shortly after the death of Pat Trammell, is a non-profit organization which provides assistance for the families of former Crimson Tide athletes in all sports. The Foundation also contributes a scholarship in the Bryant-Jordan Scholarship Program of the Alabama Sports Hall of Fame.

A fund-raising project of the Foundation is a book of the memories of many of Coach Bryant's former players, assistant coaches and other associates. This 9x12 150-page, beautifully-bound volume featuring a gold metalique bust of Coach Bryant on the cover, is available only through the "A" Club Foundation. There are over 200 personal memories about Coach Bryant in this volume from the men who knew him and loved him best.

### Golf Rankings

Both the men's and women's Alabama golf teams are nationally ranked in the fall ratings of *Golfweek*. The men of Coach Dick Spybey, who finished 11th in the nation last year and were ranked 12th in the preseason, are currently rated 15th. The women of Coach Betty Palmer made their first appearance in the national poll, 19th.

### Fall Tennis Is Strong

The Alabama men's and women's tennis teams had good fall seasons, solidifying their national rankings. The Bama women are ranked 22nd in the preseason and one of the Coach Karin Gaiser's doubles teams is expected to earn a top ten rating. Titia Wilminck and Marouschka van Dijk made women's collegiate tennis history at the Riviera All-American Tournament as they came from a wildcard entry to the championship finals. The pair defeated three ranked teams along the way. One week later they made school history by bringing home the program's first region title.

The Tide men of Coach John Kreis are ranked 25th nationally. Rick Witsken and Juan Carlos Bianchi are ranked 21st in doubles. Cecil Brandon is ranked 45th and Bianchi 54th individually.

### Tough Finish

German Beltran, Alabama's senior cross country star, had a disappointing, though courageous, finish to his Crimson Tide career. Running in the NCAA Regional Championships to qualify for the NCAA Championships, Beltran had a shoe failure, a spike working its way through the bottom of the shoe and into his foot. He discarded the shoe and ran the final three miles of the six-mile race with one foot bare. He finished eighth, missing by one place the chance to go to the NCAA Championships. Alabama's team finished 16th. The Bama women finished third, but only the first two teams qualified for the NCAA meet. The Tide's Heather Shutt-Warner was fifth individually.

In addition to the stirring memories of many of Alabama's football greats, the book includes dozens of rare photographs and an introductory biography of Coach Bryant written by 'BAMA editor Kirk McNair.

Two editions are available: The Standard with an embossed Alabama Crimson leatherette cover at \$45 and the Deluxe with an embossed pigskin grained cover at \$65. Prices include taxes and shipping.

"Coach Bryant's Football Family" may be ordered by mail by writing "A" Club Foundation, P.O. Box 1961, Tuscaloosa, AL 35403, or purchased at the office of Foundation President Tommy Brooker, 910 21st Ave., Tuscaloosa. Telephone (205) 345-2345 for information. Be sure to include your name and mailing address and a daytime telephone number.



## Early Signings:

# Tide Adds One Basketball Signee

by Kirk McNair

Men's basketball adds junior college wing player to highlight early signees

New Alabama Head Basketball Coach David Hobbs did not accomplish all he hoped to in his first recruiting test. Alabama signed only one player in the early signing period, whereas Hobbs had hoped to sign three new players.

Actually, it appears Bama will add another newcomer via the transfer route. Therefore, the Tide was probably within one player of reaching its goal. And Alabama had a commitment from that other player it sought, only to have reported family differences scuttle the signing plans.

The good news includes the one who signed with Alabama and the ones who did not sign with Bama, but who did not sign elsewhere, either. The second signing period begins in April.

The new signee is Artie Griffin, a 6-5, 185-pound swingman (meaning he can play either



Artie Griffin

point guard or the wing, and he is more likely to be a wing at Alabama) at South Plains Junior College in Levelland, Texas. He averaged 15.4 points, 5.8 rebounds and 3.5 assists per game last year for Coach Ron Mayberry. He was named all-conference as a freshman to the national junior college all-tournament team as he was the second-leading scorer in the tourna-

ment (93 points in four games, a 23.3 average). It was South Plains first-ever appearance in the national tournament. His coach called him an "excellent offensive and defensive player. He has all the tools to be a great payer. He can shoot and he plays good defense and he can also rebound. He will be an impact player, not only in the conference, but nationally."

As an all-state performer at Lee High School in San Antonio, he was the second-leading scorer in Texas with a 29.8 points per game average. He was player of the year in San Antonio and a high school All-America.

Griffin, who originally signed with Texas A&M (where current Tide Assistant Coach James Green was then an assistant), was recruited by numerous schools and his final selection came down to Oklahoma State, Oklahoma, Texas and Tennessee, as well as Alabama.

Griffin said in committing to Bama, "I like Alabama, the conference they're in, the coaches, everything about it. I like their style of play. They told me they want to try to play up-tempo. That suites me. They also have a winning tradition."

"I hope I can contribute at Alabama. There's room for improvement in my game, but I think I'm ready to play on the Division I level."

It also appears likely that Alabama is going to land Jamal Faulkner, a former star in Brooklyn who went to Arizona State. A player who signs a national letter-of-intent and plays for one school does not sign another letter when he transfers. Therefore, the transfer will be official only when Faulkner enters Alabama. However, published reports in Arizona are that Faulkner has had his transcript sent to Alabama and that he will enroll at The University. If Faulkner does enter Alabama for the spring semester he will be allowed to practice with the team, but will not be allowed to play until the completion of two semesters, which means mid-December, 1993. He will then have two seasons of eligibility.

Faulkner, a 6-7 small forward, was Pac-10 Freshman of the Year in 1991 as he averaged 15.4 points and 6.2 rebounds per game for Arizona State. He did not have as good a sophomore year, averaging 12.6 points and 5.6 rebounds per game. His best game at Arizona State came last year when he poured in a career-high 31 points and pulled down a career-high 15 rebounds against Washington State.

The reason for Faulkner's transfer is not a pretty one. He was dismissed from the school following several arrests. In August, 1991, he was one of four Arizona State basketball players arrested and charged with credit card fraud after they used a university credit card number to make long distance telephone calls. They were sentenced to two years probation, 100 hours of community service, and ordered to make restitution.

Faulkner was found in violation of his probation when he failed to perform his community service and missed reporting to his probation officer and he was sent to jail for six days. Shortly afterwards he was charged with a misdemeanor assault after having a fight with his girlfriend, was sent back to jail for several days, and was then dismissed from school.

Alabama concentrated its recruiting efforts on

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Griffin and about five other players. Two of the other five signed elsewhere, while three will be available to sign in the spring signing period.

Most disappointing is that 6-2 guard Octavus Barnes of Hunt High School in Wilson, North Carolina, did not sign with the Tide after committing to Bama. It marks the second time in three years a top point guard had committed to Bama, only to renege on the non-binding verbal commitment. Two years ago LaKista McCuller of Americus, Georgia, announced he would sign with Bama, then inked with North Carolina State. While Bama may yet get Barnes in the late signing period, it is more likely he will stay closer to home. That means Bama is behind in the search for a point guard (only true freshman Marvin Orange returns next year at the position) because Tide coaches did not recruit another point guard after Barnes' commitment.

Two other high school prep stars in Mississippi who strongly considered Alabama elected to wait until the late period to sign. Eric Washington, a 6-5 wing player at Pearl High School, and Antonio McDyess, a 6-9, 240-pound inside player at Quitman High School, will be top priority for Bama in the spring. Washington had narrowed his choices to Georgia and Kansas State, as well as Bama, while the battle for McDyess was between Alabama and Miami.

Miami got one power inside player at the expense of Alabama. Florida sources had Alabama ahead for 6-9, 230-pound Jamal Johnson of Pensacola Junior College, but Johnson signed with Miami. Also signing elsewhere was wing guard Ray Allen of Dalzell, South Carolina, who picked Connecticut. *Husky Blue & White*, a

publication covering Connecticut athletics, said Allen eliminated Alabama "because it was more of a football school than a basketball school." That couldn't be said of his other two finalists, winning Connecticut or Kentucky.

**W**hile most of the attention of the early signing period is on men's basketball, all other sports except football and women's volleyball may also sign athletes in the one-week November signing period. A two-year-old NCAA rule prohibits schools from announcing signees until the signed letter-of-intent is in the hands of the school, and that means waiting on the United States Postal Service for final confirmation of signings.

The latest reports from The University were that Alabama did not have any women's basketball, women's golf, men's and women's tennis, men's and women's swimming and diving, or men's and women's track and field signees to announce. However, it is believed that several signees in some or all of those sports except women's basketball will be announced in the near future.

In baseball, Coach Barry Shollenberger has added nine players, four of them junior college players and four (including two of the junior college players) from Miami. Six of the nine signees are pitchers.

The new Tide baseball signees from junior college are:

Second baseman Robbie Hayduk and right-handed pitcher Scott Hickox, both of Miami Dade South Junior College and both of whom played at Killen High School in Miami; left-handed pitcher/outfielder Brian Wood of

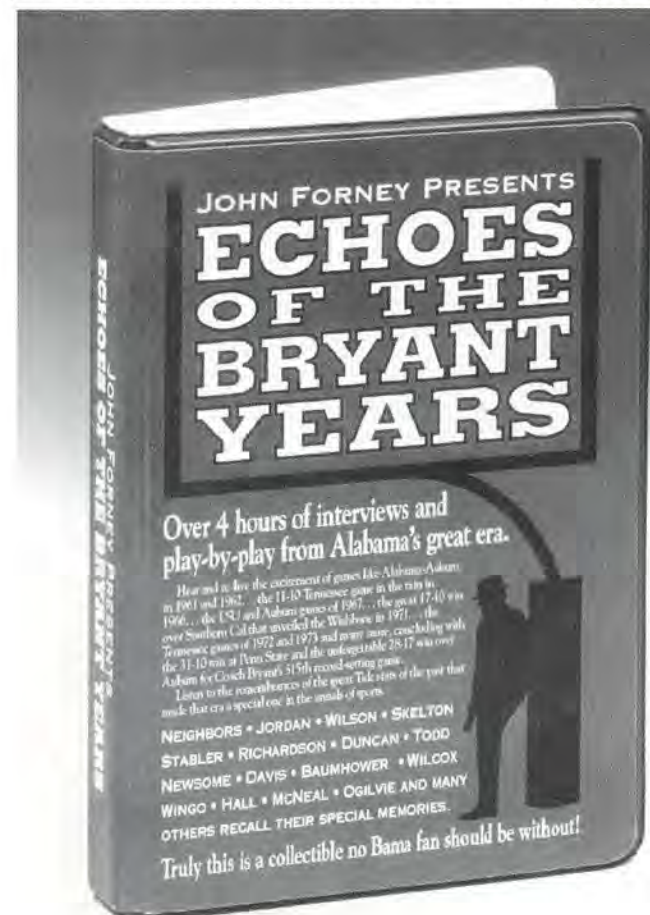
# Alabama's Family Tides

by Thomas C. Ford  
Foreword by Gene Stallings

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Cleveland State (Tennessee) Junior College; and first baseman/outfielder Jason Jordan of Pensacola Junior College. Jordan played his high school baseball at Jeff Davis in Montgomery.

New baseball signees from high school are: Catcher/outfielder David Ray (son of the former Bama and professional football player) of

Gadsden; right-handed pitcher Chris Eilers of Huntsville Butler; left-handed pitcher Roger Cainzos and right-handed pitcher Ferdie Rodriguez, both of Columbus High School in Miami; and right-handed pitcher/third baseman Joel Franks of Midlothian (Virginia) High School.

One thing to remember about baseball signees

is that the professional draft can nab both high school and junior college graduates in the spring.

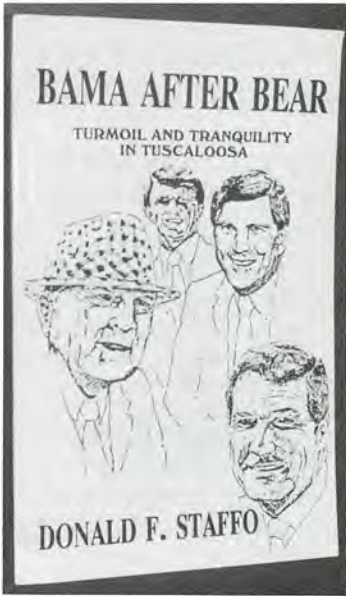
Men's Golf Coach Dick Spybey has signed the two players generally considered the best in Alabama. Chip Deason of Centreville and Bibb County High School won the 1991 Alabama Golf Association State Junior and the 1992 Southern Junior Invitational. Joe Patton of Tuscaloosa Academy was runner-up to Tide freshman Mayson Petty in last year's Alabama Private School state championships and was the state representative at the PGA Junior Championships in West Palm Beach last summer.

Coach Sarah Patterson has added three new signees in gymnastics. They are:

Kimberly Bonabentura of Houston, Texas, trained at the Cypress Academy. She competed at the 1992 USA Championships and the 1991 Sports Festival and also in 1991 was fourth on uneven bars at the United States Classic. At 1991 Region III she was all-around champion.

Meredith Willard of Clemmons, North Carolina, trained at the Salem Gym Center. In 1992 she was the United States Gymnastics Federation vault champion and second all-around. She is a two-time high school state champion and a four-time North Carolina state champion.

Stephanie Woods of Austin, Texas, trained at Capital Gymnastics, the same club that sent Sheryl Dundas and Kara Stilt to Bama. In 1992 at the United States Gymnastics Championships she was fifth on vault and 16th all-around and at Champions All in Birmingham, England, she was second all-around.



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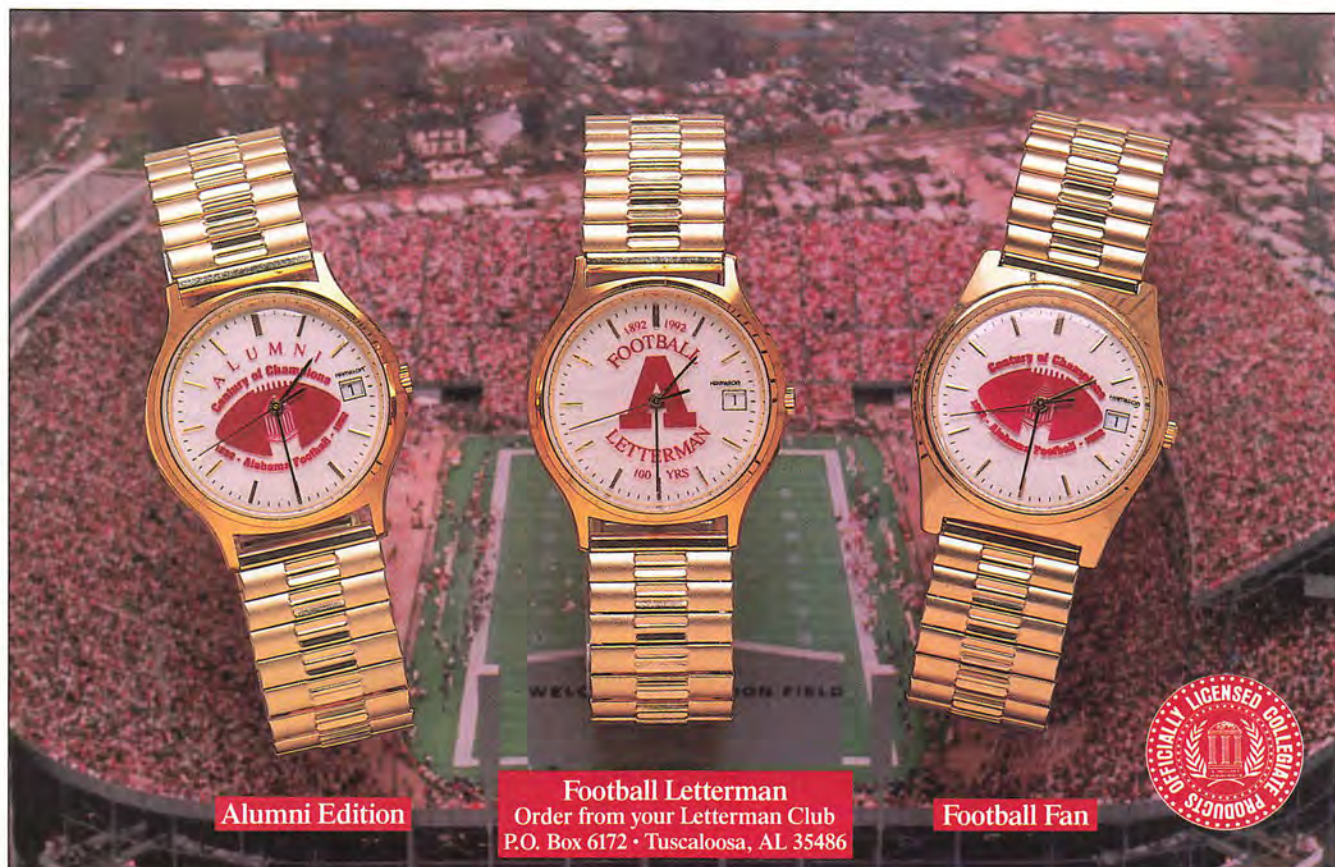


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# Someone To Talk About

by Donald F. Staffo

Senior offensive guard  
has been successful  
on and off the field

**T**alk about courage. Talk about determination. Talk about beating the odds. Talk about what intercollegiate athletics should be about.

Then talk about George Wilson.

Wilson, a fifth-year senior, is the starting left offensive guard on an Alabama team that ranks among the nation's best college football teams. His is a story to motivate the underdog, inspire the physically-challenged, and set out priorities for student-athletes.

By his own admission, George Wilson is not a gifted athlete, at least compared to some of the All-America types he plays with and against. He is not considered National Football League material. "I know for a fact that I'm not among the most talented players, not even compared to the other guys in the offensive line," he said. "There are several guys on our line who are bigger and more talented than I am."

That's not to say George Wilson is not an athlete. He was an excellent two-way performer at Jess Lanier High School in Bessemer, playing center on offense and both linebacker and tackle on defense for Coach Carol Cox. He was all-state in 1987 and ranked among the top ten prospects in Alabama. He was also a fine prep baseball player, twice batting over .350. Wilson came by it naturally to some extent. His father, Butch, was a halfback on Alabama's 1961 national championship team.

George was redshirted in 1988, then was very impressive in spring training his freshman year in 1989. The story from there is well-known. In the summer of 1989 Wilson accidentally shot himself in the foot. "It was carelessness, plain and simple," he said. Wilson was alone at the time of the accident. Alone, he managed to drive himself to a hospital. After undergoing three days of surgery, Wilson was minus his big toe and the ball of his foot. Doctors told him to forget football, that just walking again would be a challenge.

Wilson more than met the challenge. "I just took things one step at a time," he said.

Although he missed all of the 1989 season while under going therapy, by the end of the season he was not only walking, he was beginning to run. While he did not attempt lateral movement or the quick starts and stops required of a football player, a casual observer at Alabama practices would have wondered what was wrong with the big blond fellow constantly running sprints at the edge of the practice field.

"But there's a big difference between learning how to run again and trying to drive block someone who weighs 300 pounds," Wilson said. "That's tough enough for a normal person."

Wilson is not an average person or an average football player. In the spring of 1990 Wilson was back on the practice field. His injury forced him to a new position as he moved from center to guard. "Because his balance and coordination were affected, we thought it would be easier for George to play guard than center," Bama Assistant Coach Jim Fuller said. Wilson showed more than mere determination that spring. He performed well enough to win the "Paul Crane Most Improved Offensive Lineman" award, one of several awards given to Alabama football players following spring training and one voted on by the Tide coaching staff.

The center and guard positions have differences beyond snapping the football. Wilson said the biggest difference is that the center ordinarily gets help on both sides, while the guard is more independent.

"I'm just thankful for the chance to play football again and to get to the point I am," Wilson said. "I can't give enough credit to the trainers, my teammates, the coaches, and my family for being so supportive. I've learned that we're all vulnerable. Sometimes athletes develop a 'Take on the world' attitude. But dealing with my problem has been a very sobering experience. It brings you back to reality. I don't take anything for granted."

**W**ilson began the 1990 season as a backup performer, but ended up starting in two games. For the past two years he has been a member of the first team offense.

In 1990 the Tide got off to a terrible start, losing its first three games, and Wilson played only sparingly in the early going. However, in the fourth game, a win over Vanderbilt, he got the majority of the playing time at left guard. The next week he got his first start. But good luck ended quickly. Wilson had to under go a

tonsillectomy and missed the next outing, the Tennessee game. Bad luck for a teammate—Chris Robinette suffered a punctured lung against Mississippi State—thrust Wilson back into the starting lineup and he and William Barger (now a right guard) split the remainder of the season at left guard.

Last year he started every game at left guard and had a little work at center. While the 1991 offensive line didn't get rave reviews—more the opposite, to be frank—the Tide did lead the Southeastern Conference in rushing and went 11-1, so the offensive front had to be getting something done.

Without question, Wilson's attitude has been a major part of his recovery and subsequent success. "I just try to be aggressive and give everything I've got," he said. "Being an undersized player (He is 6-2, 265), I've got to do all the little things right. I can't relax on any plays or it will catch up with me."

"I want to have a knowledge of the game. You can never learn too much about football. I have the attitude of doing whatever I can to help the team in whatever phase we're in. It's not just a season thing. It's year-round. It's lifting weights and running. Coach Stallings tells us we can't just turn it on and off, that we have to keep working to be prepared."

Surprisingly, Wilson still runs a 4.9-second 40-yard dash, the same speed he had before his foot injury. He is very strong, bench pressing 415 pounds, squatting 525.

Wilson said his goal has remained the same throughout his Alabama career. "I just wanted to make a contribution to the football team," he said. "Naturally you want to become a starter. But I've had to deal with the accident. It put a lot more pressure on me and slowed me down in my goal to contribute. But that has been my goal."

**W**ilson's Alabama teammates recognize the commitment Wilson brings to the game and the contributions he has made to the team. They elected him a permanent captain prior to the season. That hasn't gone unnoticed by his coaches, either.

"He's intelligent, he's willing to work, he studies his opponent," Fuller said. "George will do anything he can to be successful and help The University of Alabama. He's one of the most dedicated players I've ever coached. That's obvious just in him coming back from his injury the way he has. No one but he knows what he's gone through to get to where





Senior offensive guard George Wilson took things one step at a time as he returned from a terrible injury to be a three-year starter.

he is—to be able to play and play well.”

Wilson said, “I think any time you’re a senior in anything you have a responsibility to lead. I’m not known for talking a lot. I’d rather lead by action and by just trying

to get the job done. That’s been my style.”

“I think George Wilson is an excellent choice for a captain,” Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings said. “He’s not a real vocal guy, but he’s a leader.”

Barry Fikes Photo

Wilson is the only senior on the offensive line other than tight end Steve Busky. Wilson chooses to share any success he has had with his teammates in the trenches. “The offensive line is a unit,” he said. “We’ve got five guys working together. I’m surrounded by good people. I couldn’t ask for better guys to be around.”

Wilson has not only maximized the second chance he got to play football, but he has also taken advantage of the opportunity the sport gave him to obtain an education. A two-time Academic All-SEC performer, he graduated last May with a degree in history and a minor in English. Last year he was honored with the Toyota Leadership Award, an honor which salutes student-athletes who are role models on and off the football field. He is not considered a professional football prospect, but he has prepared—and continues to prepare—himself for life after football. He is taking additional courses as he plays football his final season.

“Right now I’m not sure what I’m going to do, but I’m not in a hurry about it, either,” he said. “I haven’t ruled out graduate school. I might go to law school. I’m not in a rush to get out in the world. My focus is on successfully finishing this season.”

Wilson said, “I couldn’t ask for a better place to play football.”

And Alabama couldn’t ask for more from George Wilson. “George is outstanding in every respect,” Fuller said. “He exemplifies the things you look for in a student-athlete in that he’s done everything you could do in the classroom and on the field. There are not too many George Wilsons out there and I’m glad we had this one. George will be a tremendous success in whatever he does.”

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# Point Expects To Score Points

by John Barnes

Senior has expanded role as scorer, but defense and ball-handling still important

As the Alabama basketball team prepares for its season opener against Wichita State, a number of the questions surrounding the team are yet to be answered. Among them: How will this team respond to the resignation of Wimp Sanderson? How will rookie coach David Hobbs fill the void left by Robert Horry and Latrell Sprewell, both first round draft choices by the National Basketball Association?

One area where the Tide has some continuity is in the back court. Bama will return all-star candidate James Robinson at off guard, as well as point guard Elliot Washington.

For Washington, the beginning of the David Hobbs era is looked upon as a fresh start. Not known for his offensive prowess last season, Elliot was called upon to play good defense and to avoid turning the ball over on offense.

Hobbs recognizes Washington's past success in that area. "The good thing about Elliot Washington from a point guard standpoint is that he is a very safe ball-handler," Hobbs said. "He takes very good care of the basketball and does not turn the ball over that much. When you look at his stats after a game, you see one, maybe two, turnovers, and those kind of numbers will not beat you very often." In 35 games last year, Washington turned the ball over only 47 times, an astounding statistic for a point guard.

With the arrival of the 1992-93 season, Hobbs looks for more production from the point guard position. "I think Elliot has the potential to be a big part of our offense," said Hobbs. "I've always thought he was a better shooter than he showed last year. This year, if he brings the ball down and has an open three-pointer, we will expect him to take it."

Washington certainly has no problem with that. "I've always thought of myself as a good offensive player," he said. "In high school and junior college, I averaged close to 20 points per game. The reason I didn't shoot the ball much last year is because I was not called on to do that."

Washington came to Alabama from Manatee Community College in Florida, where he played for Coach Harry Kinnan. Although he averaged 17 points per game, it was his assist totals that attracted the attention of college scouts. He averaged nine assists per game as a freshman and 11 per game as a sophomore. He averaged 16.3 points per game as a senior at Southeast High School in Bradenton, where he played for Coach Bob Carroll.

Toward the end of the 1992 season, and in the Southeastern Conference Tournament, Bama fans caught a glimpse of Washington's potential as a shooter. Who could forget his last-second three-pointer against Arkansas in the SEC tournament semi-finals? Washington's buzzer-beater came with 1.6 seconds remaining in the game and sealed an 89-87 victory over the Razorbacks, propelling the Tide to its fourth consecutive tournament final.

"There is no doubt that was the biggest shot of my career," said Washington. "Although I didn't realize it at the time, it has given me a tremendous boost of confidence. Hopefully, it will carry over into this season. Last year, if I had an open shot, there was always that moment of indecision as to whether to take it or pass the ball off. I really don't think that will happen anymore."

For the 6-0, 175-pound senior from Bradenton, Florida, the 1992-93 season will be one of change. "Sure, it will be different without Coach Sanderson," he said. "To a lot of people, he



Senior point guard Elliot Washington was a role player in 1992, a man counted on to play good defense and not turn the ball over. This year his role is expected to expand to that of scorer.

Barry Fikes Photo

WAS Alabama basketball. But I have a lot of confidence in Coach Hobbs. Even when Coach Sanderson was here, Coach Hobbs basically ran the practices and put in the defensive game plan. I really don't think things will be as different as some people say."

One area of the Alabama philosophy that is certain to remain unchanged is the emphasis on defense. Over the years, Alabama has established itself as the league's top defensive team, thanks in no small part to David Hobbs. Washington believes Hobbs' reputation as a defensive guru is well-founded. "Coach Hobbs accepts



nothing less than 100 percent effort on the defensive side of the ball," he said. "He believes games are won and lost with defense and I would agree. I think you'll see more pressure defense from us this year. I look for us to press the ball a little further up the court and play more of a 94-foot game."

For Washington, the departure of Sanderson will be an adjustment, but not a major distraction. "There are some things about Coach Sanderson that I will miss," he said. "When that first game rolls around and he's not on the bench, I'm sure we will all be thinking about it, but we've got to move on and play the game to the best of our ability. I don't look at it as something that will affect our play one way or the other."

Few would deny, however, that the loss of a coach who dedicated 32 years of his life to The University of Alabama will indeed have some effect on the program.

The Tide will begin the season with two new full-time assistants in Lane Odom and James Green. Washington is excited about the prospects. "Both Coach Odom and Coach Green are true basketball men," he said. "Coach Odom comes from a basketball family and really knows the game. Coach Green has been around the game for a long time. I think they will give us an added dimension."

If there was a rap against last year's squad, it was the fact that Alabama did not have a true leader on the floor. Washington thinks he can fill that void. "I think I have good leadership qualities and will try my best to lead by example," he said. "Every team has to have a leader and if I'm called on to be the one, I'll do it."

One area where Washington continues to excel is on defense. "Elliot is a tough nut," said Hobbs. "He's an excellent defensive player and rarely turns the ball over. That's why we put him on (Arkansas star) Lee Mayberry last year; he makes you work hard every trip. There is no doubt Elliot will be a better player this year. He had some success at the end of last year and it should carry over into this season."

Washington is the first to admit he really had two seasons last year. Although he finished the season averaging only 1.8 points per game, he came on strong toward the end and scored 59 points in the Tide's last 19 games. According to Hobbs, it was more than coincidence that Washington's point production increased with the departure of part-time starter Dennis Miller. "I think it helped me when Dennis left," he said. "I knew I was the number one point guard and it helped my confidence." Washington had his highest scoring game, 11 points, in Alabama's final regular season game of 1992, a victory over Auburn.

The loss of Sanderson, coupled with the departure of Horry and Sprewell, has some thinking that this could be a sub-par year for the Crimson Tide. Players rarely make predictions and Washington is no exception. He does feel, however, that this Alabama team can confound the experts and be a competitive squad. "We're a very young team," he said. "However, there's a lot of talent out there and I think we could have a pretty good team by the end of the year. Some of the new guys like Shon (Peck-Love) and Roy (Rogers) could be a tremendous help."

If Alabama is to have a successful season, the younger players will be the ones to make it happen. "I think we have an excellent mix," said Washington. "If some of the younger guys come through for us, we could really surprise some people. When these guys learn what it takes to play in the SEC, we'll be a good basketball team."

When all is said and done, Elliot Washington wants to be remembered as more than a good defensive player and a safe ball handler. "People expect a point guard to score and I think I can live up to those expectations," he said. "Hopefully, I'll get a few more (field goal) attempts and my confidence will continue to grow. Alabama has had some great guards in the past and I hope I can be mentioned in the same breath with those guys."

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Eric Curry:

# A Winner On And Off The Field

by Kirk McNair

Alabama defensive end is a graduate and one of the nation's top football players

Most college presidents have two more degrees than does Eric Curry. But the 12 distinguished educators who head the universities of the Southeastern Conference should be introduced to Curry (and not necessarily in the manner the quarterbacks of their teams have met Curry). The presidents run the SEC and they have decided that their teams will have no more so-called Proposition 48 players.

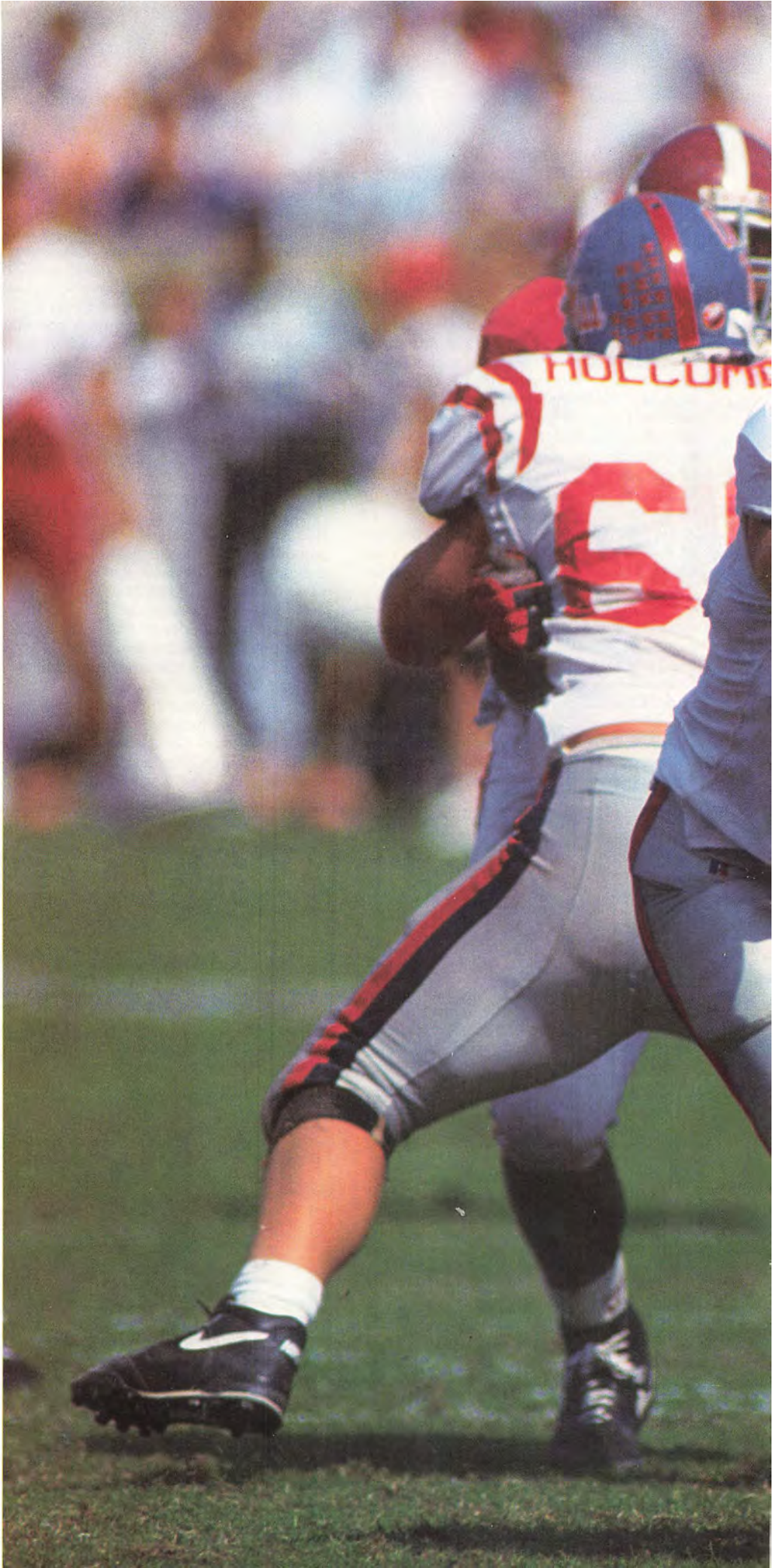
(Actually, there is no longer a Proposition 48 in the NCAA rules, but "Prop 48 players" remains the term for those high school seniors who fail to fully qualify under the NCAA rules, having a grade point average of 2.0 or better in the core curriculum and meeting a certain standard on one of the two national standardized tests, the ACT or SAT. Formerly, SEC schools could sign a limited number of partial qualifiers, allow them to attend school but not play football until meeting specific academic levels, then join the football team. This year Alabama has two such potential players in school, defensive lineman Kendrick Burton and wide receiver Toderick Malone.)

Why would the SEC presidents decide to deny partial qualifiers the opportunity to be educated and play football for their universities? And what does Eric Curry have to do with that?

Curry, who came to Bama from Thomasville, Georgia, was a very good high school student (and, of course, a very good high school football player). However, for whatever reason, he did not qualify because he did not score a passing grade on the standardized test. In those days it was permitted to bring a Prop 48 in on scholarship, have him sit out of foot-

Eric Curry is considered one of college football's best pass rushing linemen.

Barry Fikes Photo









ball a year while getting academically eligible, then join the team his second year, which Curry did in 1989.

In August, 1992, before the start of this season, and just barely over eight semesters after entering The University, Eric Curry was able to add something to his name. He was now more than Eric Curry, DE, as he is listed on a football roster. He became Eric Curry, BS. He had earned his bachelor of science degree in Criminal Justice.

It is also of no little importance that at the end of this season he probably will be able to add A-A (All-America) and be able to write big checks, perhaps even to his alma mater. But if the top educators of America follow the lead of the Southeastern Conference presidents, there will be no more Eric Currys.

Curry, who is enrolled towards a second major (human environmental science) in order to remain eligible to play football after having graduated, thinks the new rule is wrong. "If I could talk to the presidents, I'd say, 'Give these guys a chance.' Just because a person doesn't take a test well, doesn't mean he isn't capable. It could be he has test anxiety, or his school didn't prepare him for the standardized test format, or he grew up without books in his house, or anything. College is a new start. If you go to class, maintain good study habits, and do your homework, you can make it."

Curry said he considered being a Prop 48 a stigma, "But I got over it. It bothered me at times, but I didn't let it get to me. I knew if I got past it, I'd be stronger for it."

Although a stint in professional football is ahead for Curry, he is looking beyond that. "I've always enjoyed working with kids," he said. "One day I'd like to be a counselor or work in probation with kids who have gotten into trouble." He's already had some practical experience in counseling youngsters during an internship at Tuscaloosa Boys Club, where he concentrated on helping them with school

work. "I'm good in math, so I helped a lot of them in that," he said. "But I think the biggest help to most of them is just having a role model, someone they can talk to, and I've tried to be a good role model."

**W**hat Curry has done on the football field has drawn more attention than what he does in the classroom. Among others who have noticed his play are the voters for the Lombardi Award, which is given annually to the college lineman of the year. Twelve players were nominated and that list was recently cut to the four finalists—Curry, center Mike Compton of West Virginia, inside linebacker Marvin Jones of Florida State, and offensive tackle Lincoln Kennedy of Washington.

Alabama Head Coach Gene Stallings said he was pleased that Curry was a finalist for the award and that he was certainly deserving of the honor. "And," Stallings added, "I think it's an honor for the entire team, because I've noticed that the people who win those awards are usually from good football teams."

Curry may not be at the banquet in Houston when the winner is announced. That dinner is December 3 and Curry will be preparing for the SEC Championship Game on December 5.

And Curry is a primary reason Bama will be playing in that inaugural championship contest. Although he doesn't have incredible statistics, he is a leader on the nation's best defensive team (and what is probably one of the finest defensive teams in college football history). With so many fine defensive players, it is difficult for one to stand out.

Curry has also been hampered a bit this year because he suffered a broken right hand against Arkansas. Tide doctors operated on the hand, placing four small screws in the fracture. Curry played the next Saturday. "I think it bothered me when I had the cast on," Curry said. "That made it tough to play off the blocker and to grab the back. It was probably more

mental than physical, because I really wanted to show myself at my best and I really couldn't do that. But I made it through okay and now it's just a little sore, nothing to worry about."

Alabama success also means that Curry doesn't play for an entire game, averaging about half the defensive snaps.

Curry's broken hand wasn't his first serious injury at Alabama. In fact, it pales in comparison to his first injury. After having missed football in 1988, Curry—then an almost-skinny 6-6, 220-pound outside linebacker—suffered a broken foot in early practices. He missed the entire season, and was redshirted. (And, yes, he has a pin in his foot to go with the metal in his hand.)

Now up to 265 pounds, Curry spent exactly no time as an outside linebacker at Bama when he finally began playing in 1990. He was the starting right end as the Gene Stallings era got under way. Unfortunately, he wasn't completely injury-free that year, either. Alabama had finally gotten into the winning column after the season opened with three straight losses, but Bama had an off week prior to the Tennessee game. When Alabama had its first open date this year prior to the LSU game, Stallings gave the team most of the week off. He may have been thinking about that 1990 open week when Curry suffered a knee injury that limited his play the remainder of the year. After having started the first five games, Curry became a role player, the designated pass rusher, for the rest of the season. Byron Holdbrooks was the starting right end the last half of the season.

"Even though the coaches told me I was still a first teamer, and even though I tried to look at it that way, it still kind of affected my confidence," Curry said. "But, looking back on it, it probably helped me grow up, too. I think I have a better view of things now; not just football, but college life and life in general."

Curry finished that 1990 season with 28 tackles, including four behind the line for a minus 20 yards and eight quarterback sacks for minus 65 yards. He also had four quarterback pressures and blocked a field goal against Vanderbilt.

**C**urry came into his own in a big way last year. He started all 11 regular season games as well as the Blockbuster Bowl against Colorado in the Tide's 11-1 season. He had 46 tackles, including five sacks for 41 yards in losses and seven other tackles behind the line of scrimmage for another minus 17. He also had an incredible 20 quarterback pressures. His career high game came against Mississippi State when he turned in 10 tackles, but his most memorable game came against Georgia when he turned in eight tackles, two quarterback pressures, and two sacks, including a devastating sack of the Bulldogs' excellent freshman quarterback Eric Zeier on the final play of Bama's 10-0 win.



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For his performance, he was named second team All-SEC. This year, he and his teammate at tackle, John Copeland, are both expected to earn All-SEC and, possibly, All-America honors.

Although Alabama defensive ends all work on the same techniques in practices, and have the same responsibilities in games, there is a slight difference in the left end position manned by Copeland and the right end spot occupied by Curry.

"I'd say that I'm more the pass rush end and John gets most of the running plays," Curry said. "I guess that goes back to most teams being right handed, putting the tight end on the right side, running to the right, and the quarterback frequently looking to his right on pass plays. But, John is also a very good pass rusher and I'm also expected to be able to play the run," Curry added.

Curry was considered one of the top prospects in the state of Georgia after his senior year for Coach Mike Hodges at Thomasville High School. He was elected his team's captain and also played in the Georgia-Florida All-Star Game.

His reason for picking Bama? "I was an outside linebacker then," Curry said. "I wanted to come be the next Cornelius Bennett or Derrick Thomas. And I was aware of Alabama's great football tradition, too. You come to Alabama to have a chance to win championships, and we've done that." He also liked Tuscaloosa because it was about the same size town as Thomasville. "And I wanted to get away from home, farther than Florida State or Georgia," which were the other schools he considered.

One recruiting analyst called Curry the best player signed by the staff of former Alabama Head Coach Bill Curry in three years of recruiting.

Curry wasn't always a defensive end. As a high school sophomore he was a 190-pound defensive back, but he admits he wasn't much of a pass defender because he wanted to get up near the contact. He was moved to strong safety, but he still fell down on pass coverage. "That's when they moved me to defensive end," he said. "And I loved it. I was that much closer to the running backs and there was contact on every play. I love the contact. That's what football is all about."

A technique of recruiting at Alabama, and just about everywhere else, is to have visiting prospects spend time with players. Curry said he doesn't really try to sell prospects on Alabama, that he thinks they already know about the football tradition and they need to find out for themselves about the rest of it.

"I tell them to make sure they pick a school where they will be happy regardless of football," he said. "By that I don't mean a party they go to or a girl they meet, because those may not be there when they get to college. I tell them they need to find a college that offers the classes they want and makes them feel at home. It needs to



Alabama defensive end Eric Curry plays in the trenches, which suits him fine. To Curry, contact is the most enjoyable part of football. In his three-year career Curry has earned all-star honors because he dishes out more than his share of contact.

Barry Fikes Photo

be their choice, not some high-pressure sales job."

Curry said he knows he made the right choice for him. "Everyone on this team has a real good attitude, a winning attitude," he said. "Everyone sticks together, all for one, one for all. We're like a big family."

Next year the Tide loses both Curry and Copeland. Curry expects Jeremy Nunley, who has substituted at all three down line positions, to move into Copeland's left end spot, and that Damiean Jeffries, who, like Curry, came to Alabama after having been a linebacker in high school, will take over

the right end position.

One thing Curry said the upcoming players have that is invaluable is the same thing he has had: the coaching of Mike Dubose. "He's like a father. He's an inspirational coach and a motivator. He pushes you to be all you can be as a football player and a person. He's not going to let you be ordinary. He's been a great asset for me in that he's always made me strive to be my best. He wants you to be a man in every way, in life as well as in football. He teaches us that if we give in to the hardships of football then we may give in to the hardships of life."



# Tide Has High Aspirations

by Rob Woodruff

Skinner can see scenario in which Tide takes title at SEC Championships

The 1993 versions of the Alabama swimming and diving teams sport two distinctively different looks and pose two different challenges for third-year Head Coach Jonty Skinner.

The Crimson Tide women's squad is very small and very young. Over two-thirds of the squad are freshmen and sophomores, and there is barely enough for a travel squad: 18 performers. Skinner has to prepare his women athletes with the knowledge that health is of prime importance and that his squad members must support each other if the Tide is to be successful.

The men's squad has a fairly even spread of youth and experience, al-

though leaning towards the young side with 16 freshmen and sophomores against 12 juniors and seniors. That means the men's team has reasonable numbers, 28 performers. Skinner's challenge is that the talent is raw and needs careful molding if Alabama is to be successful this season.

Skinner said that with a group as small as his women, being a team is going to be important.

"It's going to be hard this year. We have such a small team that there will be situations at meets, especially when the women are swimming without the men, where we'll have people warming up, warming down, and swimming events.

There will be very few people to support them on our bench. It's going to be a real test of the team to support themselves through this kind of situation."

With a squad the size of Alabama's, health is of prime importance. "We're in a position depthwise that if one person goes down, that's one less person we have in the pool," Skinner said. "We don't have anyone to step in and take-up the slack."

"The upside is that despite our size, I think we will be much more competitive at championship style meets, such as the Southeastern Conference and NCAA, this year than we were last year. We're going to be more competitive on the relay front and in our overall point scoring ability."

Skinner said that his men's squad has potential the like of which he has not seen since he became head coach in the spring of 1990.

"This year's team is a squad that we're going to have to work hard on to prepare," Skinner said of his third Tide squad. "It's not a veteran team and it's not an experienced team but I think that we have the kind of people that if we do the job in preparation and get them ready both physically and mentally and put them in the right place at the right time, they could get crazy and do something."

By "do something," Skinner means his team has a shot at winning an SEC title. "I feel that we're a real long shot to be able to win an SEC title, but in my mind it's the first year that we're actually a shot. In the last two years that I've coached the team, I haven't felt that we've had the manpower necessary to make a run at the championship. Now we do."

"It's going to take us being ready and swimming a perfect meet and it's going to take some other teams being not as ready and maybe having a few slips, and we'll be knocking on the door. Personally I want to be knocking on the door and I'm going to do the best job I know how to make this team ready."

Skinner said that the thought of hav-



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ing a shot at the SEC title should make it a little easier for his team to get ready for the SEC and NCAA championships.

"It makes it a lot more fun to train during the year with the idea that you can win a title, than to go through with the feeling that you've got good guys but it's just not enough to get there.

"I really think that we're going to get to where we want to be as a team if we get crazy, just get down right out-of-control crazy. For some reason I think that this element of kids that we have on the team can do that. These are the kinds of kids who are not coming back to swim the times that they did last year; they're coming back to swim a lot faster. That's what's going to make us competitive."

**A**labama's freshman class shows a great deal of promise and will be looked to for depth, and, in some cases, front line points.

Two of the top freshmen in the country step up for Alabama this fall. Alex Voris of Seminole, Florida, Florida's Swimmer of the Year in 1992 and Stacy Potter of Americus, Georgia, the national high school record holder in the 100 backstroke, will add heavy clout to the Tide's lineup both on the individual front and on relays.

In addition to Voris and Potter, the men add Russell McDowell, who will be looked to for backup help in the butterfly and individual medley events while the women add Anna Lindberg of Sweden and Amy Devasher of Tuscaloosa to their roster. Lindberg is world ranked in the butterfly events while Devasher was the 1991 Junior National Champion in the 50 freestyle.

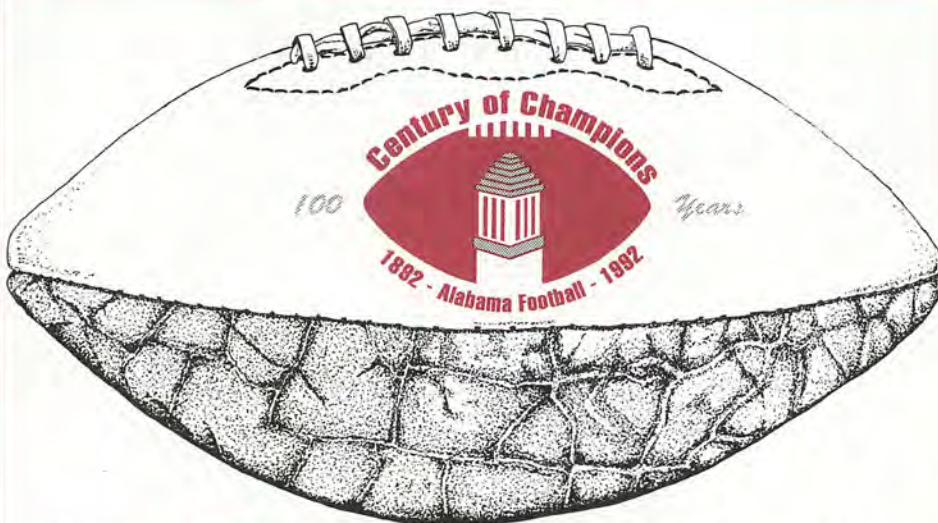
Skinner also has proven talent in the upperclassmen ranks.

On the men's side, junior Travis Myers of Northport, missed the SEC and NCAA Championship meets his freshman year due to a ill-timed bout with mononucleosis. Myers came back with a vengeance in 1992 winning the SEC 100 breaststroke title and earning All-America honors at the NCAA Championship meet. Myers is set to defend his SEC title in 1993 and do even better at the NCAA Championships.

Senior All-Americas Jamey Myers of Americus, Georgia, (no relation to Travis) and Dan Lacina of Muscle Shoals, look to close out their careers in style. Jamey Myers is the current school record holder in the 100 backstroke while Lacina combines with Travis Myers to give the Tide a very potent one-two punch in the breaststroke events.

"I look for Dan, Jamey and Travis to score some big points for us both in dual

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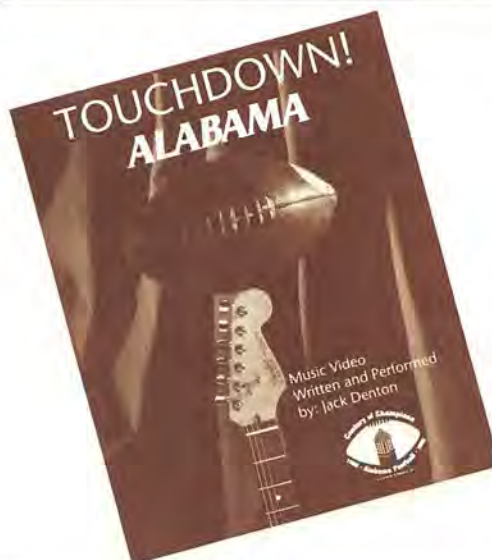
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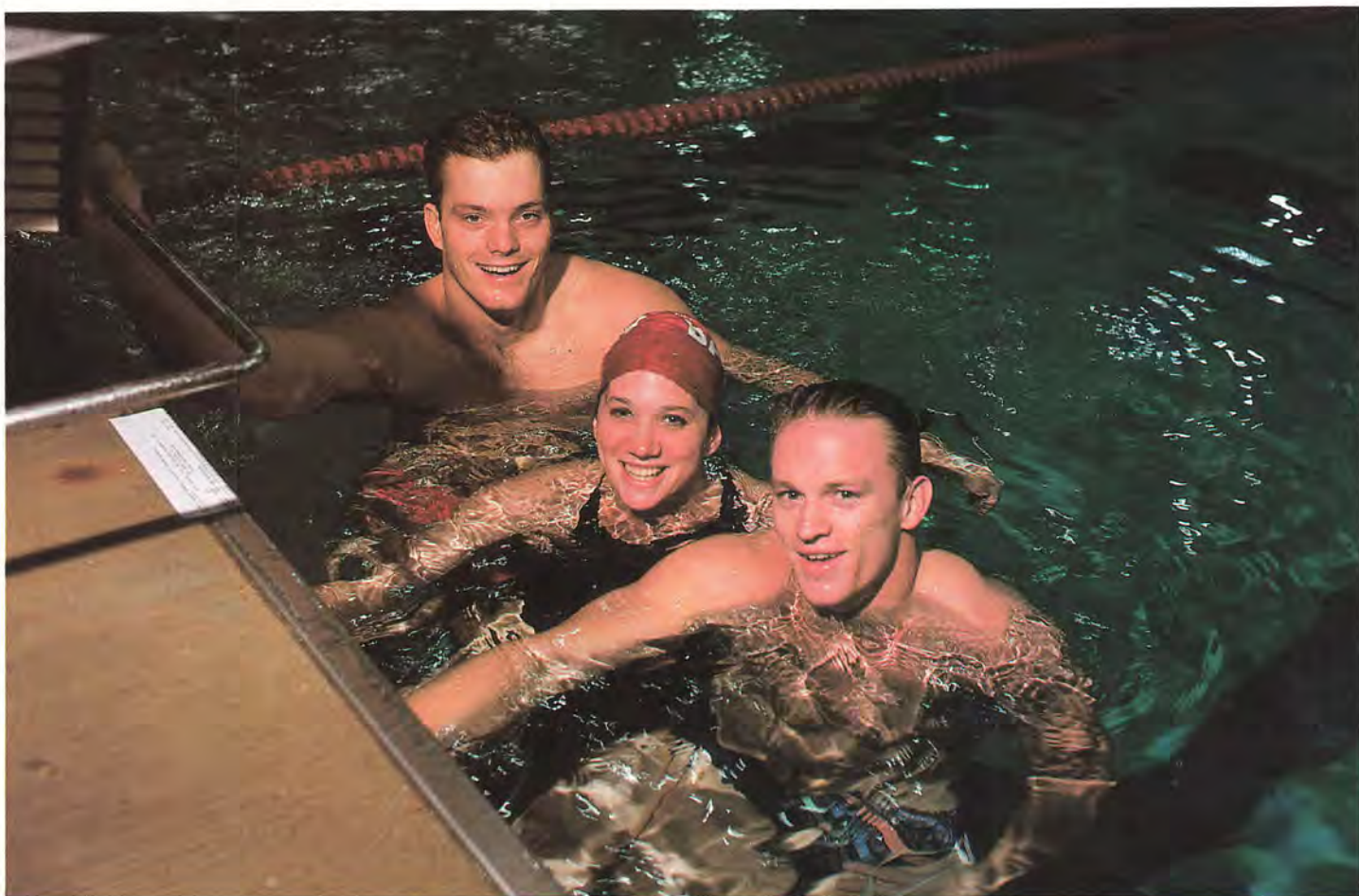
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Returning All-America performers will shoulder the load for Alabama's 1993 Crimson Tide swimming and diving team. The leaders for Bama are (left to right) Jamey Myers, Rita Garay and Dan Lacina.

Barry Fikes Photo

meets and at championship style meets," Skinner said. "All three have delivered for us in the past and should continue to do so."

Senior All-Americans Jennifer Mahaney of Milford, Ohio, and Rita Garay of San Juan, Puerto Rico, look to end their Tide careers on an up note. Mahaney was the 1992 SEC Champion off the platform, while Garay is the school record holder in the 200 backstroke. In addition to winning the 1992 SEC title off the platform, Mahaney also set the SEC, school, and Aquatic Center records for that event.

"Jen and Rita will be looked on for leadership this season, as well as dependable point scoring," Skinner said.

Alabama also has a crew of talented sophomores who will see plenty of action this season.

"We had some guys come in as freshmen last year who did a good job for us," Skinner said. "David Strassburg came through for us toward the end of the season after spending much of the fall recovering from mono, Jim

Pestrichelli and Craig Devitt came in and shored up the distance events for us. I think that those guys will continue to get better, to improve, and that can only make us a better team."

The women's squad also had some freshmen come in for the 1991-92 season and make an immediate impact on the Tide's point total.

Katherine Rhodes of Huntsville, Stacy Gillies of West Palm, Florida, Jill Tappen of Highland Park, New Jersey, and Alison Gallagher of Centreville, Virginia, all had solid first years for the Tide. Rhodes came away from the season with nine individual dual meet wins and she scored in the finals of all three of her individual events at the SEC Championships. Gillies and Gallagher contributed heavily in the distance events and Tappen proved to be a solid contributor in the diving events by season's end.

"Katherine, Stacy, Jill and Alison all developed steadily during their first year," Skinner said. "I think that they'll contribute even more as sophomores."

Skinner emphasizes that health is a prime concern for the women's squad because of the small size of the squad, Skinner knows how devastating injuries can be to a team having had a rash of illness and injuries plague the men's team last season.

This year the men's squad is far healthier than it was going into last season. Last year Strassburg was recovering from mono, sophomore transfer Dustin McDaniels had knee surgery early in the season and spent much of the year recovering, and sophomore Peter Doig had Graves Diseases and spent most of the year recovering.

"Having everyone healthy going into the season is obviously a big plus," Skinner said. "Our women's squad is so small that we can't afford to have anyone go down with an injury or illness and really, even though our men have better numbers than the women, an injury anywhere in the line up is going to hurt us. To have what people would look at as a good season, we have to stay healthy."



# Looking At Southeast Big Men

by Tommy Deas

Football battles are won in the trenches; recruiting battles are for big men

Once upon a time, a big-time college football program may have been able to stay close to home during its recruiting season and, if dominant enough in a state with an adequate talent pool, expect to be able to make travel plans for future bowl games.

In the age of parity and scholarship limits, those rules don't necessarily apply. Of course, signing the best in-state players will always be the foundation of a program, but to compete at the top level a school must make the absolute most of its scholarships and look near and far for the very best talent it can lure to its fold.

However, to stretch a recruiting budget means putting some limits on where valuable time and resources are spent. That means that Alabama, like other Southeastern Conference schools, can be expected to reap most of its crop within the confines of the region. The addition of Arkansas and South Carolina has opened up two more states in conference boundaries, but that also means two more schools to compete with for those elusive blue-chippers throughout the Southeast.

Alabama will first try to fulfill its recruiting needs with home-grown talent. But that hardly means Crimson Tide scouts aren't keeping their eyes peeled for recruits throughout the region.

Here is a list of top big men—linemen, linebackers and tight ends—in SEC states who have been linked to The University of Alabama through rumor, press reports, recruiting publications, family ties or just wishful thinking. Obviously, no one school could accommodate all the players listed with current scholarship limits, no matter how tempting the talent is, and inclusion on this list does not mean an athlete will be offered a scholarship by Alabama, or even make an official visit.

## Arkansas

Arkansas is a full member of the Southeastern Conference now, which makes it a little more likely for an Alabama to go into Arkansas and grab a player. It's not like Alabama never had Arkansas players before. Don Hutson and Paul Bryant come to mind. A couple of top linemen are playing in Little Rock this year.

**Zack Adami**, a 6-5, 245-pound two-way lineman at Little Rock Catholic High, is considered one of his state's blue-chippers in the trenches. He has 5.2-second

speed in the 40-yard dash and gained top honors as a junior. An honor student, he plays in a wishbone scheme and is considered a truly dominant run blocker.

**Ray Sessions** is rated among his state's top line prospects at 6-5, 290 pounds. The offensive lineman from Little Rock Central High runs a 5.3-second 40-yard dash and graded 70 per cent as a junior, good enough for second-team all-state honors. A probable tackle, Sessions has started 28 of 32 games over three years, and plans visits to Alabama, Arkansas, Texas and Tulsa.

## Florida

In recent years Florida has surpassed Texas and California as the most fertile recruiting area in the nation, primarily because of the large population in the state, but undoubtedly in part because once-upon-a-time also-rans Florida, Florida State and Miami have all had football success for the past decade. And over the years Alabama has had reasonably good success in recruiting in Florida.

**Elijah Brown** is a 6-3, 280-pound offensive lineman from Jacksonville University Christian High who ranks in most top 50 prospect listings in the state.

He runs a 5.1-second 40-yard dash and helped his team to the state's Class 1A championship as a junior. Opinions vary, but some rank him one of the top defensive line prospects in the nation.

**Daryl Bush** is a 6-4, 218-pound linebacker from Altamonte Springs Lake Brantley High. He is a three-year starter with 4.65-second speed and a 380-pound bench press who made some pre-season All-America lists and most state top 25 rankings. An all-state selection and Orlando-area defensive player of the year as a junior, Bush, who was born in Alabama, has a sister in college in Montgomery. Many consider him in the upper echelon of Florida prospects this season.

**Sam Cowart** is a 6-2, 225-pound linebacker from Jacksonville Mandarin High. He has added 20 pounds since his junior season and has improved his standing with scouts, while maintaining his 4.7-second speed. His stock keeps rising after once being thought of as a defensive back prospect. He has relatives in Tuscaloosa.

**Omar Edwards** is a 6-4, 230-pound offensive lineman from Bradenton Southeast High. He has been ranked among the state's top two dozen offensive



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Ray Sessions



Daryl Bush



Ryan Hoffman



Steve Wagner



Ron Rogers



Brad Lampley

trench prospects, but will have to add some size and strength to make any immediate impact in college. He has 5.0-second speed in the 40-yard dash.

**Dennis Green** is a 6-4, 240-pound two-way lineman from Pensacola Escambia High. He is a late bloomer who got little recognition from scouts until his senior season, where his big frame and 4.9-second speed have stood out. He may end up on defense.

**Ryan Hoffman** is a 6-5, 275-pound two-way lineman from Orange Park High. The three-year starter has 4.95-second speed in the 40 and a 315-pound bench press. Also a starter in basketball and track, Hoffman has qualified academically and plans to visit Alabama, North Carolina, West Virginia, Florida State and Minnesota.

**Eric Johnson** is a 6-4, 250-pound offensive lineman from Pace High School who ranks among the state's top 10 offensive line prospects and in a few top five lists. He has 5.0-second speed in the 40 and is an all-around talent with intelligence, speed and strength. Scouts say he is quick off the ball and excels at pass protection.

**Julian Pittman** is a 6-4, 245-pound defensive tackle from Niceville High. He runs a 4.8-second 40 and ranks among the top 25 and is rated as high as the top three at his position. Pittman is still growing and comes from an outstanding program, and could indeed be the best defensive lineman in the state by year's end. He made 85 tackles with eight sacks and 12 tackles for losses as a junior, playing often against double-team defenses. Most figure him to stay in his home state, with Florida State said to have the edge.

**Trevor Pryce** is a 6-5, 235-pound defensive end from Winter Park Lake Howell High. A top-50 prospect in a state full of linebacker types, he has 4.75 speed in the 40. He has added 15 pounds as a senior and has the frame to add more, and could end up as a defensive tackle. He is said to be highly recruited by Georgia and Georgia Tech, as well as the three state powers.

**Jeff Tanner** is a 6-2, 220-pound linebacker and tight end at Marianna High, where he is rated one of the better tight end prospects in the state. He has 4.7-second speed and is said to have excellent hands, but will need to add bulk and strength in college.

**Tra Thomas** is a 6-8, 285-pound man-child from Deland High. He has started since his freshman season, has 5.1-second speed and shows his agility as a standout in basketball. A solid student, his talents may be best suited for defense. He is said to be dominant against the run, making 140 tackles with 14 sacks as a junior. Florida State is said to have his ear, but Florida and Miami are also in the picture.

**Steve Wagner**, a 6-6, 250-pound center from Melbourne Palm Bay High, is the

son of former Alabama player Richard Wagner, who played under Paul Bryant and Ray Perkins after completing military service. Wagner has 5.1-second speed in the 40-yard dash and is a two-year basketball starter and a three-year football starter. Rated the top center in Florida, he plans visits to Alabama, Florida, Miami, Houston and Georgia.

**Rhondy Williams**, a 6-6, 240-pound tight end from Palatka High, was considered far and away the best prospect at his position in the Sunshine State and by some accounts the top tight end in America. That was before he was dropped from his team after two games as a senior for unspecified reasons. His grades are also a question, as is now his status as a prospect.

**Reinard Wilson** is a 6-2, 210-pound linebacker/defensive end from Lake City Columbia High who is known for his pass rush. Considered one of North Florida's most dominating defensive players, Wilson has excelled despite double-teaming to create big plays. Alabama joins Clemson, Florida State, Florida and Miami on his list.

#### Georgia

Georgia is another large population state and one which has produced excellent college football players for many, many years. The state has a lot of recruiting pressure with Georgia and Georgia Tech in the state and the likes of Florida State, Clemson and Auburn right on the borders.

**Jody Coulter** is rated among the top 30 prospects in the state. The 6-3, 260-pound two-way tackle for Calhoun has 5.1-second speed and is a natural blocker with good strength. An above-average student, Coulter is said to be considering Alabama, Georgia, Clemson and Vanderbilt.

**Mickey Henderson**, a 6-2, 290-pound noseguard from Columbus Jordan High, also plays offensive tackle. He is very physical, with a 355-pound bench press and 5.1 speed in the 40, and is a two-time area heavyweight wrestling champion. Henderson plans visits to Alabama, Georgia, and Clemson.

**A.J. Johnson**, a 6-3, 275-pound two-way tackle from Ocilla Irwin County, hopes to play guard in college. With 5.2-second speed and a 340-pound bench press, he made several regional all-star teams and is a three-year starter. He plans



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**Will McClave**



**Billy Beron**



**Jason Coffey**



**Heath Panks**



**Will Friend**



**Trey Teague**

visits to Alabama, Auburn, Georgia and Florida.

**Delmeco Lynch**, 6-4, 230, is an outside linebacker at LaGrange Troup County. He runs a 4.65 40-yard dash. Schools on his list in addition to Alabama are Georgia, Auburn, Mississippi State and Ole Miss.

**Quantrellis Phillips**, a 6-3, 225-pound defensive end from Griffin High, has 4.7-second speed and projects as a pass rusher. A three-year starter at a solid program, he is quick on his feet and has a 300-pound bench press. He has yet to qualify academically.

**Paul Pickett** is a state Super 11 pick by the *Atlanta Journal*. The 6-4, 245-pound two-way starter for a LaGrange High team that ranked number one in the nation his junior season has 4.7-second speed in the 40 and a 315-pound bench press. He has started since the third game of his freshman season and also plays basketball.

**Ron Rogers**, a 6-2, 218-pound linebacker from Dublin, is also a standout at fullback. He is a four-year starter and a leader who had made 118 tackles through seven games as a senior. A four-year starter at first base in baseball, Rogers may

follow both parents to the University of Georgia, but also plans visits to Alabama, Florida State, Georgia Tech and Duke.

#### Kentucky

The bad news is that Kentucky doesn't produce a lot of high school football prospects. The good news is that neither the University of Kentucky nor Louisville give those few produced in the commonwealth a reason to stay home. A number of those prospects will want to leave the basketball state.

**Kareem Dailey**, 6-2, 225, is a linebacker at Louisville Waggener. He went to summer football camp at Alabama.

**Brad Lampley**, a 6-5, 250-pound offensive lineman from perhaps the state's top football factory, Louisville Trinity, has 5.2-second speed in the 40-yard dash and a 300-pound bench press. He graded 88 per cent as a junior, making second-team all-state and first-team academic all-state. Lampley plans to choose from among Alabama, Georgia Tech, Kentucky, Notre Dame, Tennessee and Georgia.

**Will McClave** is a 6-5, 265-pound offensive lineman from Louisville Male High, where he has started three years since first taking up the sport. Also a member of the

basketball and track teams. McClave, who is an honor student, is the cousin of former Vanderbilt lineman Bobby Craycraft. Alabama, Indiana, Wake Forest, Kentucky and Ohio State are among his college choices.

#### Louisiana

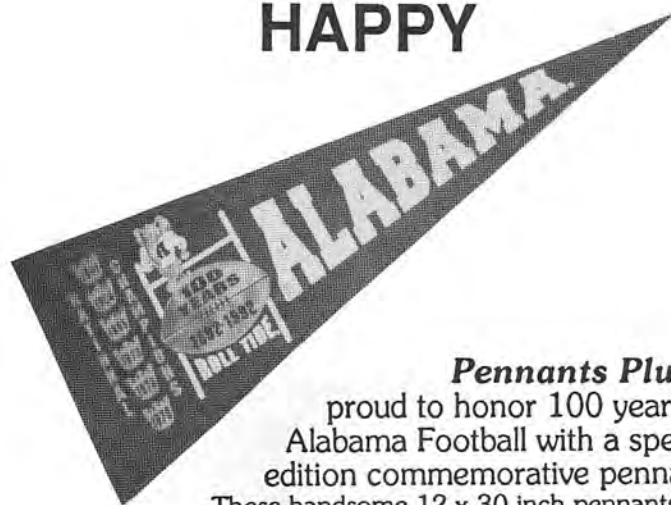
The rumor mill has it that Alabama is working very hard on recruiting Louisiana this year, probably in part because LSU has the reputation of having played so many young players this year that upcoming freshmen may perceive it will be difficult to earn playing time with the Bengal Tigers. LSU coach Curley Hallman had success plucking out-of-state talent last season, but will have to work hard to shore up his home base, also in part because of negative reaction to the lack of success by the Tigers.

**Ken Anderson** is a 6-4, 275-pound offensive lineman from Shreveport Captain Shreve High. As agile as he is large, Anderson forced teams to run the other way as a junior on defense and opened big holes as a blocker. Anderson has 5.0-second speed in the 40-yard dash and can bench press 300 pounds.

**Micah Anderson** is a 6-4, 245-pound

# HAPPY

# ANNIVERSARY



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defensive end from Monroe Ouchita High with 4.95-second speed in the 40. He is considered long on technique, and has shown great improvement every year.

**Billy Beron** is a 6-5, 260-pound defensive lineman from Metairie Archbishop Rummel High, where he is a four-year starter and a pure defensive prospect who plays no offense. Also a standout in field events for the track team, Beron had 120 career tackles with 18 sacks and 10 tackles behind the line of scrimmage going into his senior season. Beron, who has qualified academically, is the son of a Mississippi State graduate and had another relative who played at LSU. He plans to consider Alabama, Notre Dame, Tennessee, Florida and Texas A&M, and ranks as one of his state's top 20 prospects.

**Jason Coffey** is a 6-1, 222-pound

linebacker from Baton Rouge Catholic High. A two-year starter who plays full-back on offense, Coffey is a national champion weight-lifter and a three-time state weight-lifting champion. Coffey has strong family ties to LSU, but has listed Alabama, Washington, Colorado, Vanderbilt and Tennessee as his college choices. He had 92 tackles through six games as a senior, causing three fumbles with 10 tackles for losses.

**Colby McCullough** is a 6-4, 250-pound defensive lineman from Merrero Shaw High, where he is considered among the best in the Southeast. He has 4.8-second speed in the 40, and made 99 tackles with eight sacks as a junior. A three-year starter, he is a major pass rush prospect.

**Heath Panks** is a 6-4, 260-pound two-way tackle from Slidell Salmen High who was rumored to have committed to LSU

early in the process. A projected defensive tackle, he is a three-year starter who had 143 tackles with 10 sacks entering his senior season. Alabama was said to have joined LSU, Tennessee, Vandy and Ole Miss on his college list, with teams like UCLA, Nebraska and Oklahoma also figuring in somewhere. Panks is also an all-district punter.

### Mississippi

With wins over Southern Miss, Ole Miss and Mississippi State this year, Alabama won the state football championship of Mississippi. If the Tide can pick off a few of the top players in the Magnolia State, Bama might win the recruiting war in Mississippi, too. Mississippi is not a large population state, but it has consistently produced very good football players.

**Fernando Davis** is a 6-3, 220-pound linebacker from Aberdeen High. He made more than 100 tackles as a junior, using his 4.7-second speed and heady football sense to make big plays all over the field. Alabama is said to join the likes of Georgia, LSU, Mississippi State, Ole Miss and Oklahoma on his list of college choices.

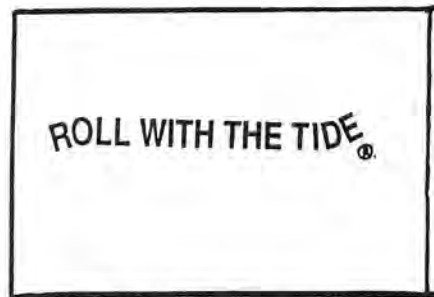
**Kelton Dixon** is a 6-3, 292-pound nose guard from Meridian High who is also a powerful blocker on offense. He is said to have grade questions, but projects as an impact player if he can gain eligibility. After only two years of organized football, Dixon will choose from among Alabama, Mississippi State, Clemson, Auburn, Nebraska and LSU for his college career.

**Eric Dotson** is a 6-4, 280-pound dominant defensive force from Pascagoula High. Some have ranked him among the nation's top 50 prospects after an all-state junior season. He has 4.67-second speed in the 40-yard dash, and comes from one of the state's top programs. He has received attention from top programs across the nation, and is said to have planned visits to Mississippi State, Ole Miss, Alabama, LSU and Florida State, but numerous other schools have been linked to him at some point. Dotson ranks with Will Friend as the state's top prospect.

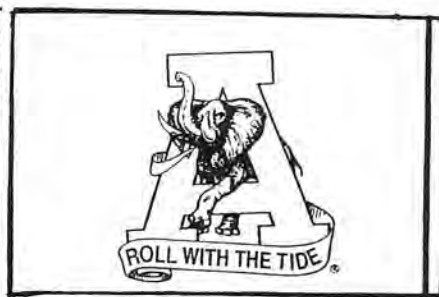
**Mark Fields** is a 6-4, 260-pound guard prospect from Tupelo High, where he plays on a team with four other college line prospects. He has qualified academically, and can bench press 300 pounds. Fields is considered equally effective pass-and-run-blocking, and is said to have narrowed his college field to Alabama, Tennessee, Florida, Georgia, Clemson, Vanderbilt and Ole Miss.

**Will Friend** is a 6-3, 275-pound multi-talented player from Philadelphia who is said to have narrowed his top college choices to Alabama and Notre Dame. Friend is a four-year starter who has played every offensive line position, including tight end, as well as defensive tackle and defensive. An honor student, he also plays basketball, baseball and track, and gained pre-season All-America recognition and was a two-way all-state selection.

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Friend is coached by his father, Chuck Friend, at Neshoba Central High School, and is said to be a long-time Alabama fan.

**Jason Ferguson** is another prospect who makes this the Year of the Noseguard in Mississippi. Ferguson is a 6-3, 308-pound stopper at Nettleton High. He played tight end as a junior and has 5.0-second speed, as well as a 400-pound bench press and 605-pound squat. Alabama joins Ole Miss, Mississippi State, LSU, UCLA, Florida, Texas, Auburn and Florida State on his long list of suitors.

**Toby Myles** is a 6-6, 300-pound offensive tackle for Jackson Calloway High. He has surprising downfield speed at 5.1 in the 40, and is also a powerful force in the trenches. Myles is also an effective force as a defensive tackle, and has been gaining in scouting assessments with each game.

**David Sanders**, a 6-5, 260-pound defensive end prospect from Jackson Provine High, made 70 tackles with six sacks and 11 batted-down passes as a junior. He also averaged 20 points and 15 rebounds per game in basketball, and could field offers in that sport as well. Noted as a pass rusher, he may have eligibility problems. Alabama, Texas A&M, Mississippi State, Texas, Clemson and Florida State have been linked to him.

**Terry Smith** is a 6-4, 260-pound late bloomer from Aberdeen High who did not play football before his junior season. Smith is considered a quick study, and has 5.1-second speed. He has gained 15 pounds since his junior season, and has moved from a linebacker prospect to a projected lineman.

**Mond Wilson** is a 6-3, 215-pound linebacker at Tupelo High with good closing speed and big-play instincts. He once took 13 stitches on the sidelines for a busted lip and returned to action after missing just two plays. Wilson will have to add upper-body strength, but has qualified academically. Alabama is said to join Tennessee, Colorado, Georgia, Vanderbilt and Clemson on his list.

#### South Carolina

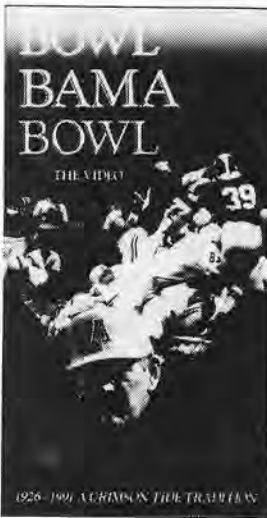
South Carolina as a recruiting area is something of an unknown to most Alabama fans, but with the Tide having two former Clemson assistant coaches—Bill Oliver and Woody McCorvey—as well as former Clemson player and graduate assistant Danny Pearman on the staff, the Tide probably knows its way around the state.

**Joel Holiday** is a 6-5, 280-pound offensive tackle for Clemson Daniel High, who, according to unconfirmed rumors, may have committed early to Clemson University. Considered one of the best young pass blocking prospects in the region, he is also a good run blocker with speed and considerable strength. An all-state performer as a junior, he is also a state heavyweight wrestling champion.

**Kevin Long**, a 6-5, 230-pound offensive lineman at Summerville High, runs a 4.8-second 40-yard dash and is a three-

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year starter at center in both basketball and football. He graded 91 per cent as a junior and can play any position in the offensive line. He also plays defensive end in key situations and is an above-average student.

**Robert Smith** is a 6-3, 215-pound linebacker from Sumter High School. He has 4.55-second speed in the 40-yard dash and is among the state's top defensive stoppers. He has added some bulk since his junior season, but will probably need to beef up more for college.

**Damian Yongue**, a 6-3, 230-pound outside linebacker at Orangeburg Wilkinson, missed about half his junior season with a knee injury. He is a four-year starter and academically eligible. He has good speed (4.6) and strength (390 bench press).

#### Tennessee

Tennessee has been given a bad rap over the years as not producing great high school football players, but a look at Bama's roster with the likes of Antonio London, Jeremy Nunley, Chris Donnelly, Jon Stevenson and John Clay, among others, gives lie to that rumor. With Johnny Majors on his way out and Vanderbilt traditionally looking abroad for much of its talent, it will be interesting to see how well outsiders fare in recruiting wars this time

around.

**Derrick Johnson** is a 6-2, 240-pound linebacker from Memphis Craigmont High. He is rated among the top two linebackers in the Memphis area by scouts despite missing half his junior season with injuries. Johnson has 4.6-second speed in the 40-yard dash, and is a hard hitter who is very strong against the run.

**Trey Teague**, a 6-5, 275-pound tackle and long snapper from University School of Jackson, is a three-year football starter who is also a standout in basketball and track. He entered his senior season with 211 career tackles and has already qualified academically for college play. Teague plans visits to Alabama, Tennessee, Notre Dame, Vanderbilt and Washington. His father, Freddy Teague, played for Ole Miss in the 1970s.

**Reggie Upshaw** is a 6-3, 240-pound all-state defensive lineman for Chattanooga Red Bank High. Also a standout as an offensive lineman, Upshaw ranks among the best interior players in the state and is expected to get better as he adds size. A likely defensive end with 4.9-second speed in the 40, Upshaw is a solid pass rusher who has also played well at guard and tight end. Auburn, Vanderbilt, Memphis State and others are said to be in the hunt.

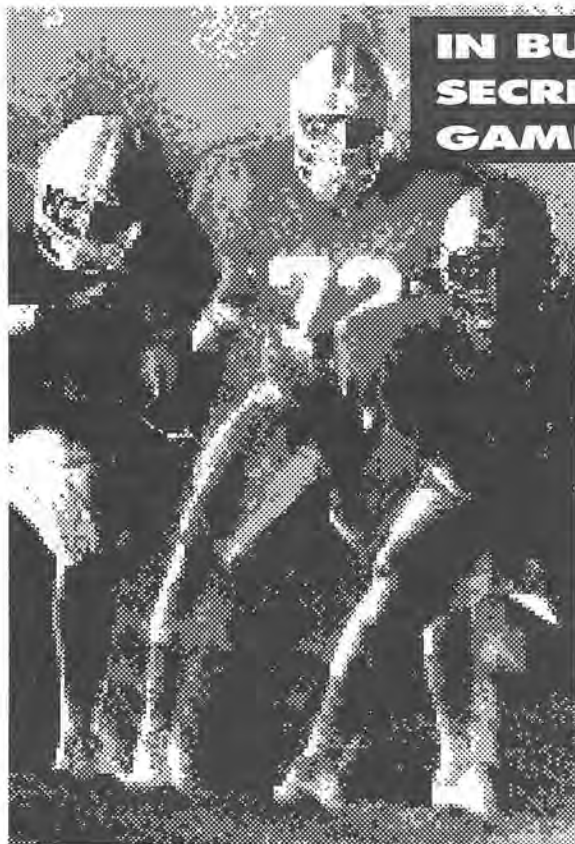
**Jason Walters**, a 6-4, 230-pound defen-

sive end from Memphis University School, is an all-area selection who led his team in sacks as a junior. Also a tight end, Walters runs a 4.75-second 40-yard dash and is expected to emerge as a pass rush threat. He is rated in the top 10 Memphis-area prospects, and some have elevated him among the state's top three prospects. He is said to have the potential to add 50 pounds to his frame, and has a brother at Tennessee.

**W**hen the Southeastern Conference announced the plans that resulted in the addition of Arkansas and South Carolina to the league, speculation arose about a super-conference alignment that involved raiding the maligned Southwest Conference to add Texas and Texas A&M to the flock. That hasn't happened (at least not yet), but The University of Alabama may expand relations with the Lone Star State by luring some Texans to Tuscaloosa.

A notable Texan, one who played at Texas A&M under Paul Bryant, now reigns over the Crimson Tide program. Word is, Gene Stallings hasn't forgotten his Texas ties and Alabama may use its national stature to expand its recruiting base into oil country this year.

Texas has too many blue-chippers to list here, but among those who have indicated

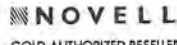


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Mark Nason

at least marginal interest in Alabama are:

**Bertrand Berry**, a 6-4, 218-pound linebacker from Humble High, is also liked for his running ability, and could find himself at fullback or tight end before his career is over. The 1,000-yard rusher has 4.49 speed and also is considered a good receiver. Alabama is said to join Texas A&M, Notre Dame, Penn State and Michigan on the list of this honor student.

**Rodney Buchanan**, a 6-4, 240-pound offensive lineman from Electra High, was an all-district selection at center and defensive lineman as a prep junior. He can bench press 370 pounds and squat 550, and has exceptional agility

with quick feet. He counts Alabama, Nebraska, UCLA, Texas A&M and Oklahoma among his college choices.

**William Carr** is a 6-2, 220-pound defensive tackle for Dallas Carter High. He has 4.8-second speed and a good combination of quickness and physical play. Scouts like his ability to use his speed and hands to explode off the line.

**Glen Coy** is a 6-4, 240-pound offensive and defensive lineman from Kaufman High who has planned visits to Miami, Washington, Alabama, Southern Cal and Nebraska. He has 5.0-second speed in the 40-yard dash and made 50 tackles as a junior. Coy has major-league quickness, but will need to add strength and bulk.

**Vernon Crawford** is a 6-3, 265-pound defensive lineman and tight end from Texas City. He has good size and equally good hands, and is liked on offense as a blocker and pass catcher.

**Kelly Klare** should be charged for two scholarships at 6-6, 328 pounds. The offensive lineman from Houston Jersey Village has 5.4-second speed and obvious attributes in size and strength.

**Trason Maresh** is further proof—at 6-6, 250 pounds—that they grow 'em big in Texas. The offensive lineman from Brenham High runs a 4.97 40 and is a standout on the defensive line as well. He is a three-time all-state selection who also excels in the discus. Maresh lists Alabama, Texas A&M, Colorado, Oklahoma and LSU as schools of interest.

**Frank Middleton** is a 6-4, 275-pound tackle from Beaumont West Brook High. He has 5.1-second speed in the 40 and graded 90 per cent as a junior. An all-state nominee, he is considered one of the state's top blockers.

**Zerrick "Z.T." Rollins** is good enough to be known by his nickname, quite an accomplishment in a state so deep in talent. The 6-5, 230-pounder from Houston Kashmere can play linebacker or defensive lineman, and has 5.1-second speed. He missed most of his junior season with injuries, but has stood out as a senior.

A member of the *Blue Chip Illustrated* national Dream Team and a widely-selected prep all-America, **Chris Ruhman** is a 6-7, 280-pound offensive lineman from Houston Nimitz. He has 4.93 speed in the 40, a 305-pound bench press and a 450-pound squat with outstanding agility and footwork. Alabama joins Texas A&M, Tennessee, Penn State and Michigan on his list.

**Allen Wilbon** is a 6-2, 225-pound linebacker from Dallas Kimball High. He is a big hitter with good feet and good instincts. He has 4.6-second speed in the 40-yard dash, and is expected to improve with age.

**Chris Wyatt** is a 6-4, 260-pound offensive lineman from San Antonio Antonian High. With 5.1-second speed in the 40, he was a two-way all-state selection with 94 tackles and 14 sacks.

Don James, the highly successful coach at Washington, probably isn't looking over his shoulder for Crimson Tide scouts just because Alabama passed his team in national polls in November, but Alabama has been linked to one Seattle-area prospect. **Mark Nason** is a 6-2, 220-pound linebacker from Eastmont High in East Wenatchee. A two-year starter at tackle and linebacker, as well as in track and wrestling, Nason is a team captain with more than 100 tackles as a junior. He is an honor student who plans to visit Washington, Alabama (where he attended football camp last summer), Stanford, Washington State and Oregon.

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# 1992-93 Alabama Winter Sports Schedules

## Men's Basketball

DATE/	OPPONENT	TIME/
UA Score	Opp. Score	
	*Russian-American/High 5	79
	*Ukraine National	80
Dec. 1	Wichita State	7:30
Dec. 4	Washington State @ B'ham	7:00
Dec. 12	Southern Miss	1:30
Dec. 19	@ Old Dominion	TBA
Dec. 22	@ Virginia	6:30
	Cable Car Classic	
Dec. 29	Rhode Island	10:30
Dec. 30	Santa Clara or Harvard	TBA
Jan. 2	@ Vanderbilt	7:30
Jan. 4	Tennessee State	7:30
Jan. 6	Louisiana State	7:30
Jan. 9	Texas A&M	1:30
Jan. 12	@ Arkansas	8:40
Jan. 16	Ole Miss	3:00
Jan. 19	Kentucky	8:40
Jan. 23	@ Mississippi State	3:00
Jan. 27	Auburn	7:30
Feb. 1	East Carolina	7:30
Feb. 3	@ Florida	6:30
Feb. 6	@ Tennessee	6:30
Feb. 13	Arkansas	2:00
Feb. 17	Georgia	7:00
Feb. 20	@ Ole Miss	3:00
Feb. 23	@ Louisiana State	8:40
Feb. 27	South Carolina	1:30
March 3	@ Auburn	7:00
March 6	Mississippi State	TBA
March 11-14	SEC Tournament	
	at Lexington	
	Exhibition game	
	All times central	

## Women's Basketball

DATE/	OPPONENT	TIME/
UA Score	Opp. Score	
Dec. 1	*Athletes In Action	4:00
	Dial Classic @ Ruston, La.	
Dec. 4	Delta State	6:00
Dec. 5	Alcorn State or Louisiana Tech	
Dec. 13	Vanderbilt	2:00
Dec. 15	Austin Peay	7:00
	Shoney's Classic	
Dec. 18	Grambling	6:00
Dec. 19	Clemson or East Illinois State	
	St. Joseph's Classic @ Philadelphia	
Dec. 29	Georgia Tech	7:00
Dec. 30	St. Joseph's or Fordham	
Jan. 2	@ Florida	12:00
Jan. 5	Xavier of Ohio	7:00
Jan. 9	*South Carolina	11:00 a.m.
Jan. 16	@ Louisiana State	4:15
Jan. 18	@ South Alabama	7:30
Jan. 21	@ Mercer	6:00
Jan. 23	Tennessee	2:00
Jan. 26	Tulane	7:00
Jan. 31	@ Kentucky	2:00
Feb. 3	Loyola-Chicago	7:00
Feb. 6	@ Mississippi State	7:00
Feb. 8	Appalachian State	7:00
Feb. 13	*Ole Miss	11:00 a.m.
Feb. 17	@ Auburn	5:00
Feb. 20	Arkansas	7:00
Feb. 25	Oral Roberts	7:00
Feb. 28	@ Georgia	1:30
March 1	@ Alabama State	7:00
March 5	SEC Tournament	
March 8	@ Chattanooga	
	*Exhibition game	
	*Doubleheader with men	
	All times central	

## Gymnastics

DATE/	OPPONENT	TIME/
UA Score	Opp. Score	
Jan. 16	@ Auburn	7:30
Jan. 22	@ Georgia	6:30
Jan. 30	Kentucky	7:30
Feb. 6	Alabama Four-Way	7:30
	(Iowa, Southeast Missouri, Minnesota)	
Feb. 12	Louisiana State	7:30
Feb. 19	@ Penn State	6:30
Feb. 26	Georgia	7:30
March 5	@ Florida	6:30
March 13	Auburn	7:30
March 20	SEC Championships	7:30
	@ Coleman Coliseum	
April 3	NCAA Central Regional	
	@ Baton Rouge	
April 15	NCAA Championships	
April 17	@ Corvallis, Oregon	

All times central

## Men's Indoor Track

DATE	MEET
Jan. 16	Saluki Invitational
	@ Carbondale, Ill.
Jan. 23	Arkansas State Invitational
	@ Jonesboro, Ark.
Jan. 30	Purple Tiger Invitational
	@ Baton Rouge, La.
Feb. 5	Gator Classic
	@ Gainesville, Fla.
Feb. 7	Mobile I Invitational
	@ Fairfax, Va.
Feb. 12-13	Husker Invitational
	@ Lincoln, Neb.
Feb. 13	Middle Tennessee Invit.
	@ Murfreesboro, Tenn.
Feb. 27-28	SEC Championships
	@ Baton Rouge, La.
March 6	Last Chance Invitational
	@ Murfreesboro, Tenn.
March 12-13	NCAA Championships
	@ New Orleans

## Men's Swimming

DATE/	OPPONENT	TIME/
UA Score	Opp. Score	
209	Delta State	72
209	Northeast Louisiana	161
169	Clemson	123
109	Louisiana State	133
Nov. 20-21	Gator Invitational	
Jan. 6-	All-America Diving Invit.	
Jan. 10	@ Austin	
Jan. 9-10	Tide Invitational	
Jan. 15	South Carolina	4:00
Jan. 15	Texas	4:00
Jan. 23	Georgia @ Knoxville	11:00
Jan. 23	@ Tennessee	11:00
Feb. 6	Red-White Intrasquad	TBA
Feb. 17-	SEC Championships	
Feb. 20	@ Fayetteville	All Day
March 6	Auburn	TBA
March 7	Alabama Invitational	TBA
March 11-13	NCAA Diving Prelims	
March 25-27	NCAA Championships	
	@ Indianapolis	All Day

## Women's Swimming

DATE/	OPPONENT	TIME/
UA Score	Opp. Score	
120	Delta State	53
120	Northeast Louisiana	27
187	Clemson	92
107	Louisiana State	135
Nov. 20-21	Gator Invitational	
Jan. 6-	All-America Diving Invit.	
Jan. 10	@ Austin	All Day
Jan. 9-10	Tide Invitational	All Day
Jan. 15	South Carolina	4:00
Jan. 15	Texas	4:00
Jan. 22	Georgia @ Knoxville	7:00
Jan. 23	@ Tennessee	7:00
Feb. 6	Red-White Intrasquad	TBA
Feb. 17-	SEC Championships	
Feb. 20	@ Fayetteville	All Day
March 6	Auburn	TBA
March 7	Alabama Invitational	TBA
March 11-13	NCAA Diving Prelims	
March 18-20	NCAA Championships	
	@ Minneapolis	All Day

## Women's Indoor Track

DATE	MEET
Jan. 16	Saluki Invitational
	@ Carbondale, Ill.
Jan. 23	Arkansas State Invitational
	@ Jonesboro, Ark.
Jan. 30	Purple Tiger Invitational
	@ Baton Rouge, La.
Feb. 5	Gator Classic
	@ Gainesville, Fla.
Feb. 7	Mobile I Invitational
	@ Fairfax, Va.
Feb. 12-13	Husker Invitational
	@ Lincoln, Neb.
Feb. 13	Middle Tennessee Invit.
	@ Murfreesboro, Tenn.
Feb. 27-28	SEC Championships
	@ Baton Rouge, La.
March 6	Last Chance Invitational
	@ Murfreesboro, Tenn.
March 12-13	NCAA Championships
	@ New Orleans





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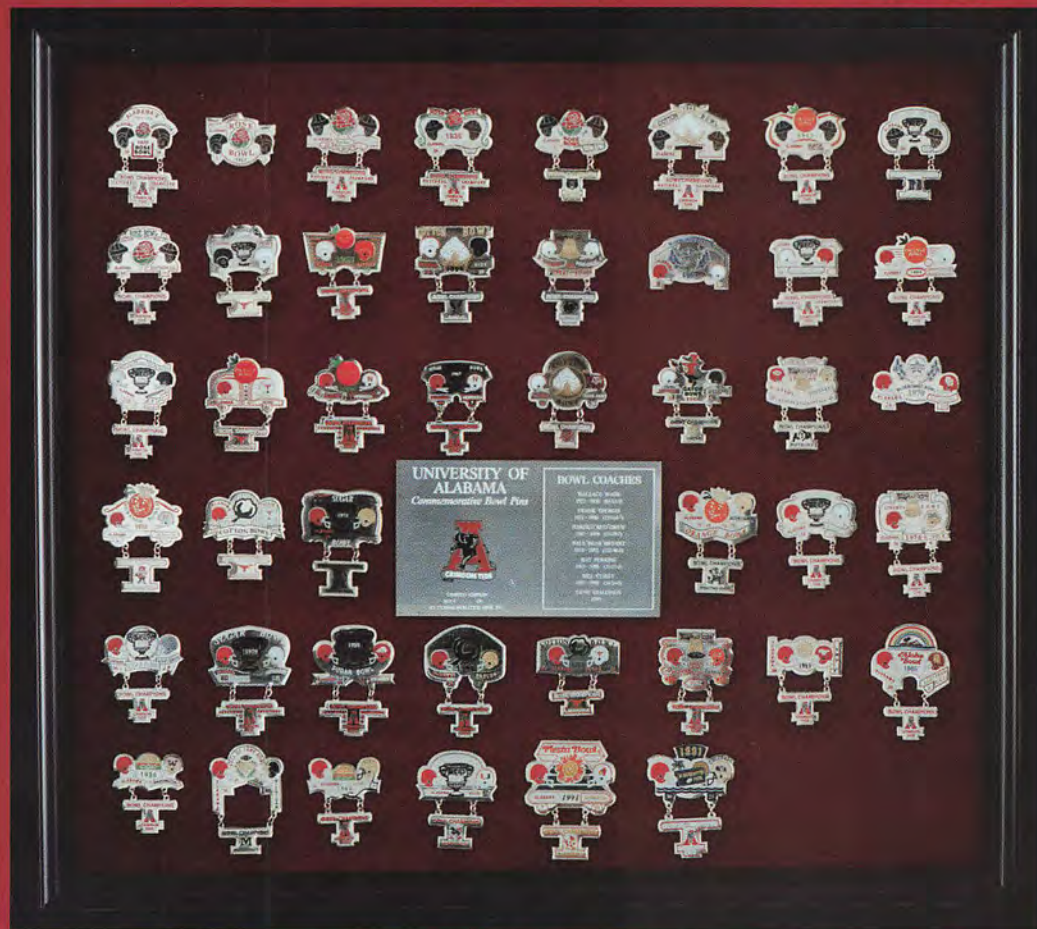
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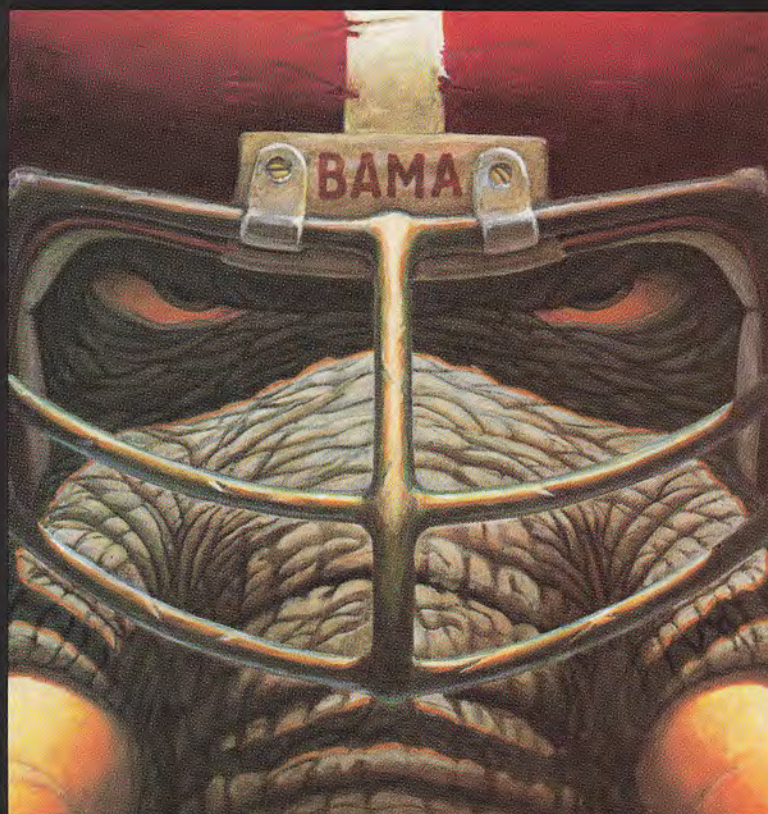
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